



# TOWARD THE TOP

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MAGAZINE OF BISHOP MCGUINNESS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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2021





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2020-2021 School Year*

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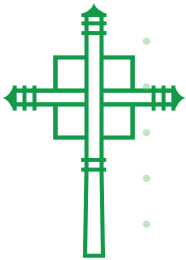
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*Cover photo taken by Nathan Coomes '22*



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# Message from Principal: David Morton

**“All things for all people.” These are the words that guided Bishop Eugene McGuinness during his nine year tenure as Bishop of the Catholic Church of Oklahoma.**

From the time he assumed the position as Bishop on February 1, 1948 until his death on December 27, 1957, Bishop Eugene McGuinness directed and oversaw the largest expansion of the Church in Oklahoma. Within 10 years, the diocese saw the erection of 102 new churches, 70 new rectories, 38 convents, 12 parish halls, 4 hospitals, and 48 schools. One of these schools was Central Catholic High School.

Prior to 1950, Oklahoma City had three high schools: Mount Saint Mary High School in south Oklahoma City, Saint Joseph’s in downtown Oklahoma City, and Bishop John Carroll in north Oklahoma City. In 1948, land was acquired at the corner of 50th and Western and construction began on a high school that would serve to consolidate Saint Joseph’s and Bishop John Carroll to bring these students onto one campus.

Central Catholic High School opened its doors to 270 students in the fall of 1950. Bishop Eugene McGuinness was present to bless the school and its classrooms. From this modest beginning, the school has grown through the decades. Facilities have been added as the needs of an ever-growing population demanded. Two years after his passing, Central Catholic High School was renamed Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School to honor the man whose vision was to expand and grow Catholic education across the state.

This fall, McGuinness opened its doors to the largest student population in the school’s 71 year history. Representing virtually every Parish in the greater Oklahoma City area, as well as numerous public, charter, and private schools, 725 students started a new school year. Despite the pandemic that has gripped our country for the past 18 months, the

administrative and teaching staff remained determined to provide in person instruction for all who attended.

Since 1950, over 10,000 students have received a Bishop McGuinness diploma and entered their adult life with all the tools needed to excel in their chosen profession, assuming leadership roles in their community and guiding the faith life of their own family. Doctors, civic leaders, lawyers, teachers, judges, Pulitzer Prize winners, movie producers, stage actors, musicians, dancers, priests, nuns, moms and dads, reflect just some of the many accomplishments of our graduates.

The school’s path over the next 71 years and beyond will depend on our ability to attract and maintain high quality teaching professionals, sound leadership, and a willingness of the school community to support the continued growth and expansion needs of the school while remaining true to the words spoken on the day of his ordination, “All things for all people.” Since its inception, Central Catholic High School/Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has prided itself on attracting a diverse student population. I can say with good conviction, Bishop Eugene McGuinness would be proud of the school’s heritage and the possibilities that lie ahead.



# Message from School Advisory Council Chair

**It’s hard to believe the 2020-2021 school year is behind us. It was a difficult year for all of us, but one in which our school shined. I will be eternally grateful to our teachers, administrators, and members of the School Advisory Council (SAC) for their tireless dedication, along with their willingness to challenge current paradigms and adapt for the benefit of our students in such a fluid environment. As such we find ourselves strategically well poised for the current school year and beyond.**

As my SAC Chair tenure comes to an end, I can’t help but reminisce on some of my favorite memories involving our great school. Let me first say that working with the School Advisory Council and its members has not only been an honor and a privilege but also a lot of fun. We have a wonderful and eclectic group that graciously volunteer their time and energy to our school and allow it to reach new heights as a result. However, like any other parent, my favorite memories at our school involve our children who attended Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS). Be it academic success or participation in extracurricular activities, my fondest memories are those of watching Zach and Hannah come into their own.

Our school is known for the college preparatory curriculum it provides and that education certainly plays a role in our student body’s array of college acceptances, vast scholarship awards, and collegiate academic success. Just as crucial, however, is the breadth of extracurricular activities offered at BMCHS which ensures that each student has the opportunity to discover and develop their passions. I believe that this abundance of options is a direct result of our diverse student population and the wide array of interests that

diversity manifests. Zach and Hannah (along with their friends) made the most of this opportunity and found activities they loved. For Zach it was athletics and art, and for Hannah it was dance. This didn’t come without some trial and error, but that’s the wonderful thing about having so many activities to choose from. Once they found their niche(s), they were able to hone their skill set through study, practice, and endless guidance from teachers and coaches. Along the way, they developed the confidence to step out of their comfort zone and try something new, as well as the wisdom that with hard work and commitment they will always learn something about themselves and ultimately enjoy some success.

While my children have, of course, experienced adversity in their collegiate and post collegiate lives, I truly believe that their successes are a direct result of the foundation that our school provided to them. Our children, along with so many others that have had the good fortune to attend BMCHS, have been bestowed with amazing opportunities and skills that have allowed them to face obstacles and adversity head on. They’ve received an outstanding college preparatory education, a pathway to spiritual awareness, and the confidence and inspiration to overcome hardships and follow their dreams. It is a blessing to know that as BMCHS graduates, our children were in the best environment to set them up for success, both professionally and personally, and to see them take on the world now with the capability they’ve been given.

For the School Advisory Council,

**Jeff Segell, Chair**





# Section 2: School Highlights



Artwork created by  
Hannah Bernstein '22

## Academic Highlights

**48** Students Named  
Oklahoma Academic  
Scholars

**64%** Recent graduates who took  
at least one AP exam during  
their four years

The national average is 39% percent.

**22** AP Courses Offered

**71** Students Awarded Presidential  
Award for Academic Excellence



**3** National Merit Finalists  
and Semifinalists

Congratulations to Brigitte Webb, Daniel  
Webber and Matthew Coomes, class  
of 2021, on being selected as National  
Merit Finalists and Semifinalists!

### AP SCHOLARS

The College Board released the  
Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar  
Awards for the 2020-21 school year.  
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High  
School is proud to announce that 105 of  
its students earned this recognition for  
their exceptional achievement on the  
2020-21 exams. In total, 282 students  
took 530 exams, with 77% percent of  
students earning a score of 3 or higher.

**48** AP Scholars

**22** AP Scholars  
with Honors

**35** AP Scholars  
with Distinction





**DANCING WITH THE IRISH STARS**

You're looking at the 2020 Mirrorball Champs—Catie Leonard '21 and Mrs. Julia Anderson-Holt (np), and Kate '23 and Drew '21 Schomas. We are so amazed by all of our Irish stars and want to congratulate them all on their marvelous performances.



**KAIROS FOURTH DAY**

We started off Holy Week with a Kairos Fourth Day reunion with 30 students and eight faculty members! This was an excellent opportunity to reconnect with God, others and ourselves. We hope to build on this, and be able to host more Fourth Day Reunions in the future! Special thanks to our Fourth Day student leaders from the class of 2021: Katherine Ramirez, Lana Al-Botros, Grace Engel, Shelby Savely, Casey Gormley, and Rose Nguyen.

**SPEECH + DEBATE**

The Speech and Debate Team placed 1st overall in team sweeps at the OSSAA Regional Tournament, with 31 students qualifying in 55 events total for the state tournament. At state, the team finished second, and were named the 3rd place Academic Achievement Award winners. Three students were named state runners-up and 18 students placed in the Top 10.



**ACADEMIC TEAM**

Congratulations to Brigitte Webb '21, Jacob Love '23, Chris Bayless '22, Daniel Webber '21, Luke Wienecke '21, Curt Schwager '23 for finishing fourth at the Class 5A State Academic Bowl.



**SOLO + ENSEMBLE CONTEST**

Congratulations to Ariel Santos, Margot Knudtson, and Fabio Chirinos, class of 2021, on their Superior ratings at the OSSAA State Solo and Ensemble Contest for their violin performances.



**Daniel Webber '21** was selected for the Academic Bowl All-State Team — he was one of 36 seniors invited to compete — and his team finished 6-0 and defeated the coaches team.



**BOWLING TEAM**

The bowling team placed 2nd at the regional tournament, qualifying them for state. This is the fourth time our team has placed in the Top 2 at regionals and qualified for state in recent years.





**DANCEVISIONS**

The DanceVisions team competed at the Encore Dance Co. Competition with four extraordinary performances — all earning high marks.



**DANCEVISIONS**

Falling performed by  
Kate Schomas '23: Ultra  
High Gold

Flaws performed by  
Grace Engel '21 &  
Sarah Tran '21: High Gold

Home performed  
by DanceVisions:  
Ultra High Gold and  
2nd place Overall

Nicki performed by  
DanceVisions: Ultra  
High Gold and 1st  
place Overall

**SPEECH + DEBATE NATIONALS**

Congratulations to Lane Adkins '21, Price Collier '23, Evyn Lehr '21, Catie Leonard '21, Amy Schoelen '23, Blaire Smith '22, and Sarah Tran '21 on their hard work at the National Speech & Debate Tournament!

- Sarah made the Poetry Top 30
- Evyn made the Poetry Top 30
- Catie & Price made the Split Screen Duo Top 60
- Amy & Lane made the Live Duo Top 60
- Blaire competed against more than 300 International Extemp competitors



**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

What an honor it was for the Bishop McGuinness String Trio to be invited to the Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Three Change of Command Ceremony! And on top of that, the ceremony was to recognize Commander Roger A. Davis '98 relieving his predecessor.

Theatre



**FAITH COUNTY,**  
October 8-10, 2020



**CHICAGO: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION,** February 25-27, 2021



HANNAH BERNSTEIN

Hannah Bernstein's art piece "Hand" was submitted for the Oklahoma Region of the National Scholastics Art & Writing contest and earned the Gold Key, the highest award given in the contest as well as two honorable mentions for her other pieces. Her Gold Key Piece will advance to the national competition taking place in New York City. Bernstein '22 also had another piece that was selected to represent the Fifth District of Oklahoma in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition. Her piece was showcased at the U.S. Capital and was seen by visitors from across the country and members of Congress.



On the Venturing Crew Trip to Slippery Falls for a campout, Ann-Marie Weitzel '22 cooks a meal of meat, hash browns, and vegetables wrapped in tinfoil over the fire before she eats it. Photo by Nathan Coomes '22.



Yoga Club president Lilianna Gavula '22 leads the club at the first meeting. The club members stretched and did breathing exercises to reduce stress. Photo by Zitali Armenta '24.

At the Big Sis/Lil' Sis introduction, freshman Bea Vogler poses for a selfie with her Big Sis, senior Lana Al-Botros. For social distancing purposes, the reveal took place on the practice field. Photo by Sara Maupin '22.



MASKED PROM IN GYM

Perfecting Prom:  
Committee Plans  
Event, Prioritizes  
Safety

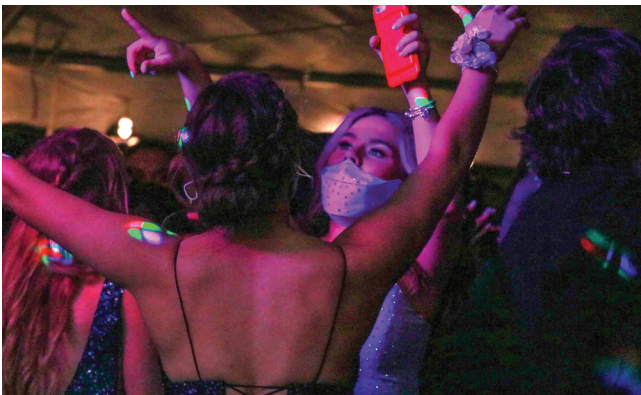
By Mallory Winfrey '21  
Chi Rho yearbook staff

With no student having been to a prom, the pressure to put on a safe and memorable night was high for the prom committee. Following safety protocol, the committee organized the dance to take place in the school parking lot with tents and a dance floor on the concrete lot in front of the gym.

"The expectations are different, and there is more pressure to make it a fun event, but I'm excited," junior prom committee president Lilianna Gavula said.

As a sign of the times, the theme was masquerade. Feathers and black and white colors were incorporated to match the mysterious and opulent vibe of the theme.

"We knew that masks had to be mandatory, and we wanted people to easily match the theme," Gavula said.



Hands up, Ella Fried '22 and Megan Camp '22 dance to the Weeknd's "Blinding Lights." Photo by sophomore Peyton Matteson '23.



At prom, Sarah Tran '21, Madeline Camp '22 and Jillian Hibbard '21 dance to "Levitating" by Dua Lipa featuring DaBaby. Photo by Peyton Matteson '23.

CHI RHOAN AWARD

The 2021 Chi Rhoan received Highest Honors, All-Oklahoma and Sweepstakes at the Oklahoma Scholastic Media State Competition! The online edition of the Chi Rhoan took home Honors, as well. The staff — including Kampbell Kopera '22, Sullivan McCollum '24, Luke Wienecke '21, Kate Fletcher '23, Emily McDougall '21, and Landry Jansen '22 — also walked away with numerous individual awards.







Jake Margo '21 helps the StuCo team build the annual sculpture for the canned food drive. StuCo built the sculpture November 19, 2020 in the shape of a bottle of hand sanitizer. "The Canned Food Drive helps so many people during the winter season, and our drive makes an impact," Margo said.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

# StuCo Breaks Fundraising Record

By **Kampbell Kopera '22**  
**Chi Rhoan newspaper staff**

The community exceeded the goal of 80,000 lbs. of canned goods by collecting 88,318 lbs, which will feed hundreds of families in Oklahoma.

StuCo came up with ways to reach the goal and make an impact on Oklahoma families.

"We exceeded our goal by encouraging students who have not brought in their cans the last few days to bring them in," Canned Food Drive Co-Chair Grace Engel '21 said. "We had a lot of monetary fundraisers that helped a lot, such as the bake sale, button sales and our online auction art."

Engel and her co-chair Sophia Lopez '22 led the drive, which kicked off on Halloween. All proceeds were donated to the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank.

"Our theme this year is CAN-demic," Engel said. "We thought this would be the best year for this theme and our motto is doing what we CAN. It is important for the students to realize that while there is a pandemic going on and a lot of things are constantly changing, there is always something you can do to help your community."

Engel and Lopez encouraged students to bring their cans this year.

"Due to the pandemic, many low income families are at risk for food insecurity," Lopez said. "McGuinness's canned food donations will help immensely. The drive helps the community feed families who are struggling during the pandemic. We are pushing for our motto this year, 'doing what we can'."

When the collection ended StuCo students built a sculpture with the cans prior to loading trucks from the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank.

"We usually build a sculpture out of cans after the drive is over, and it is one of the best events in the drive," Engel said. "It takes a lot of creativity and someone who is normally in STEM. We have delegated the planning because we want a good sculpture, but we are donating the cans so we have to be careful not to damage them."

A DAY IN THE LIFE

# Sophia Lopez & Sam Wilson

By **Samuel Wilson '22**

Every day is a new adventure at Bishop McGuinness. During swim season, I wake up early to help Coach Veneklasen run the morning drills. Once I get to school, I love to start my day with two warm chocolate muffins while I go over my schedule for the day. I fill my day with interesting courses ranging from STEM II where I work on a year-long engineering project to AP Biology where I learn about the interconnectedness of the natural world. At the end of the day, I enjoy Sister Sanchez's closing prayer that helps me transition to my extracurricular activities and reflect on the day I have had. After school, you will often find me in the auditorium where I stage manage the variety of McGuinness productions and work on everything from set construction to the programming of our theatre lights. Before coming to McGuinness, I had little knowledge of what it takes to run a production but have now even had opportunities to work with professional theatre and dance companies. If I am not working with Mr. Avra in the auditorium, I am with one of McGuinness's dozens of clubs ranging from rock climbing to robotics. I am thankful for everything McGuinness has taught and done for me.



By **Sophia Lopez '22**

I like to start every Friday by going to morning Mass. I really enjoy taking time out of a busy week to center myself and focus on my faith alongside my peers. Afterwards, I feel ready for a day filled with rewarding classes, Student Council meetings, and DanceVisions rehearsal. My second hour, AP US History, is very fun and entertaining thanks to Mrs. Collins' way of storytelling. Every day her lessons are really interesting, and my class becomes invested in our nation's development and historical leaders. This is a close second to my favorite course, AP Physics I. While this class is definitely the most challenging, it is also the most rewarding. Mr. Goff promotes an encouraging classroom where students are very comfortable with asking for help. After classes, I head to rehearsal for DanceVisions. All year we work on strengthening our technique and learn choreography for our annual spring showcase. I'm so grateful for the opportunities BMCHS offers to grow artistically, academically, and as a leader.



CATIE LEONARD

# Moving on Up: Senior Commits to Top Musical Theatre Program

By Luke Wienecke '21  
Chi Rhoan newspaper staff

Dancer first, actress second, singer third. That's how Catie Leonard '21 ranks her performative skills, but why rank them at all? Like peanut butter, jelly, and Wonder Bread, there's no need to stratify the ingredients, they all work so well together. As she took her final bow after her performance in Chicago: High School Edition Feb. 27, it was an emotional end to many of her fellow performers' love of show business. Unlike Leonard's pals on the stage, the drop of the curtain marked only the end of a chapter in the long story of her young theatre career. But to understand Leonard's complete dedication to her craft, you have to start at the very beginning.

Leonard got her start in dancing when she was just three years old. Like many, her mom put her in a beginner's ballet class. But unlike many, she stuck with it beyond that first year.

"My mom put me in ballet when I was three, and I just never quit," Leonard said. "I'm the only senior left."

Ballet is only a small slice of her skill set, however, and as she grew up, she kept taking on more and more dance classes, soon adding voice lessons and acting rehearsals to her afternoons. As the schedule of classes snowballed, so too did the dream. Leonard picked up tap, jazz, and pop, really rounding out her dancing portfolio.

She started acting in the Christ The King Catholic School plays beginning in the third grade, and by junior high was claiming starring roles, even notching the classic role of Dorothy in Wizard of Oz. Leonard burst on to the professional acting stage, landing a role in Lyric Theatre's production of "Oklahoma" at just the age of 12. Through middle school she maintained a steady docket of more than nine hours of dance a week, combining that with school, Lyric Theatre rehearsals, and her work fine tuning



her voice. While Leonard might not have had Broadway aspirations when she first started dancing, by seventh grade the dream was alive and well. Because of Leonard's talent in dancing, as she transitioned to high school, Pom seemed like an obvious fit. Leonard excelled with the program.

"She was definitely one of the strongest dancers," Pom captain Jane Nelson '21 said.

But with the huge time commitment, Pom began to eclipse some of her other passions, and the schedule was just too much to juggle, especially with the addition of competitive speech. At the same time, Leonard knew the decision to leave the team would be difficult.

"It was difficult to say goodbye to the team, but I knew I was making the right decision for me," Leonard said.

After saying goodbye to Pom sophomore year, Leonard was able to fully dial in and pursue her dream. Of course the dancing didn't stop after moving on from Pom, but it allowed her to focus more of her time on the performances themselves. And there were lots of them. Between speech, her seven professional contracts with Lyric Theatre, and two school productions a year, Leonard was always preparing for the next act.

"Her biggest strength is her willingness to always improve," speech coach and play director Brett Young

said. "She already has so much talent with acting and singing and dancing, but it's because she puts in the hours to learn it and to work it."

The second half of sophomore year is when Leonard really began to blaze her own trail. There's really no playbook for getting into the extremely competitive world of collegiate musical theatre, and she may be the first McGuinness student ever to set their sights so high. Aside from the pure grind required to pad the resume, Leonard ran into some difficulties as she began the next chapter of her musical ambitions. If you're a high school football player looking to take it to the next level, you've got a whole team of support. There's dozens of recruiting websites, scouting events, coaches, and athletic staff who have sent dozens of kids to the next level. Most of the time, there's multiple kids in each sport working together to get the exposure that gets them to elite athletic programs in the country. But for a goal like Leonard's, there isn't exactly that same level of built-in support at most schools.

"I did feel lonely a lot," Leonard said. "It has been hard because nobody here has really been doing it with me."

Even if Leonard felt lonesome on her journey to the top, she was always sure of two things: her passion for performance, and perhaps more importantly, the unwavering support from her parents.

"Honestly, they're the only people that actually understand what's going on," Leonard said. "They've been very supportive."

As Leonard moved into her senior year, it was finally time to flex that resume to some of the most selective college programs in the country. The onset of COVID-19 threw a curveball at the admissions process, but the show went on.

Collegiate Musical Theater programs are notoriously difficult to get into, often only accepting 10 guys and 10 girls out of thousands of applicants. The process leading up to actual acceptance requires full scale interviews, deep dives into applicants' resumes, and most importantly, the auditions themselves. With everyone holed up at home in the spring and summer, this process was made even more difficult. Applicants sent in self-taped videos of themselves performing monologues, songs and dances for the admissions officials to review. If those videos are intriguing enough, they narrow down the pool to a few hundred, with the next step being live hybrid interview-auditions over Zoom. Leonard made this cut at every single one of the 22 programs she applied to.

Since these proceedings couldn't happen in person, Leonard's room turned into a quasi-studio, complete with a blue black drop and lighting. As she performed in interview after interview, the butterflies in her stomach seemed to disperse.

"They were terrifying at first," Leonard said. "I was nervous because I had done auditions before but never something as extensive as this. And by the end of it, I felt like I was a pro. I felt like I kind of mastered that skill of auditioning."

With the auditions solidly under her belt, she entered the next phase of the process: waiting. Auditions were all wrapped up by the beginning of February, but admissions decisions didn't start to come out until March, leaving a period of suspense that eventually took its toll.

"At the beginning of February, I was in Miss Damron's (the health and wellness counselor) office crying because I hadn't gotten in anywhere," Leonard said.

Most aspiring performers take a shotgun approach and apply to as many programs as they can, hoping that they can get into one or two. Leonard's goal was to get into two and then to make a decision between them.

She has been accepted into 10, including the top program in the country at The University of Michigan. The wait was worth it.

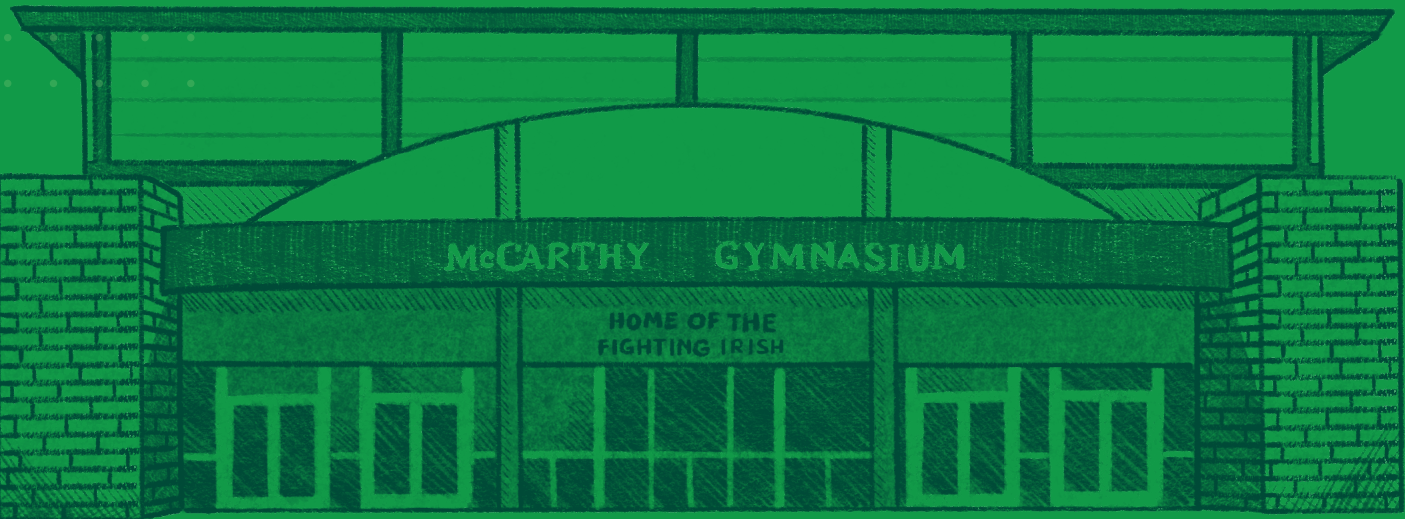
"When I got a phone call from Ann Arbor, I was kind of freaking out," Leonard said. "It was a little surprising. The dream for me was I wanted to get into a top 10 school because I wanted to be in a community where I was surrounded by kids who were like minded and wanted similar things so that I could grow in that environment."

Leonard's wide net approach worked better than she ever imagined, securing acceptance letters from musical theater programs at The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, New York University, Syracuse, Ithaca College, Otterbein, Montclair State and Ryder University: all elite programs. With the smashing success of being sought out by the top schools in the country, Leonard's hard work, focus, and sacrifice have more than paid off.

15 years. For 15 years, Leonard has been working, dancing, singing, and acting her way toward a career in musical theatre. And if you take that time span as an interval of success, as a checkpoint towards the end goal, there's no telling where Leonard's talent might take her next. 15 years down the road, if anybody reading this story finds themselves in New York City, go catch a Broadway show, and while you're there, say hi to Catie for me.



# Section 3: Athletic Highlights



## Athletic Highlights



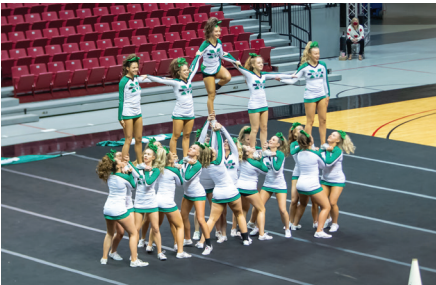
### VOLLEYBALL

Class 6A Regional Champions,  
State Quarterfinalists



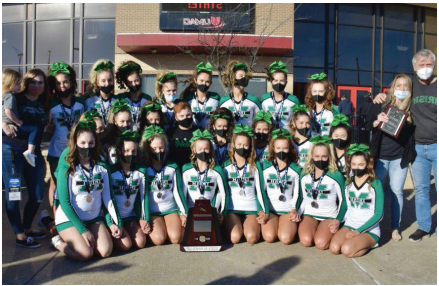
### FOOTBALL

Class 5A State  
Runners-Up



### CHEER GAME DAY

3rd Place at State



### CHEER PERFORMANCE

Class 5A State Runners-Up



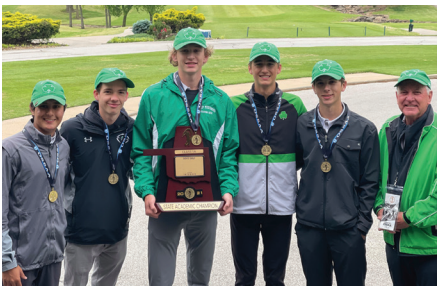
### POM

Oklahoma State Dance Team Directors'  
Association (OSDTDA) Class 5A Jazz  
Division Champions, OSDTDA High  
Point Award, OSDTDA Outstanding  
Choreography Award



### BOYS TENNIS

Regionals 2nd Place — Tristian Nguyen '21  
& Ryan Schwartz '21 #1 Doubles



### BOYS GOLF

Class 5A State Academic Champions,  
4th Place at State, Carson Lee '23  
finishing in the Top 10 at State



### GIRLS SOCCER

Class 5A State Runners-Up



# Athletic Highlights



## GIRLS SWIM

6th place at State

### 200 Free

State Champion -  
Victoria Whitbeck '23

### 100 Backstroke

State Champion -  
Macy Lewis '24

### 100 Butterfly

State Champion -  
Macy Lewis '24

### 500 Free

2nd Place -  
Victoria Whitbeck '23

### 200 Freestyle Relay

3rd Place - Macy Lewis '24,  
Lilianna Gavula '22,  
Katie Elbow '22,  
Victoria Whitbeck '23



## GIRLS TRACK

Class 5A State Runners-Up

### 400m Run

State Champion - Julia Richard '21  
2nd place - Presley Parker '21

### 4x100 Relay

4th place - Ari Maxwell '24,  
Logan Pierce '22, Julia Richard '21,  
Ava Thielke '24

### 4x200 Relay

2nd place - Ava Thielke '24,  
Presley Parker '21, Julia Richard '21,  
Ari Maxwell '24

### 4x400 Relay

State Champion -  
Sabrina Guzman '23,  
Ari Maxwell '24,  
Julia Richard '21,  
Presley Parker '21

### High Jump

State Champion -  
Isabella Scherm '22



## BOYS SWIM

6th place at State

### 500 Free

4th place -  
David Hernandez '22

### 400 Freestyle Relay

4th Place - Henry Ison '23,  
Santiago Hernandez '24,  
David Hernandez '22,  
Jacob Moad '23



## BOYS TRACK

4th place at State

### 110m Hurdles

State Champion -  
Tyrrell Bruner '23

### High Jump

2nd Place - Gabe Grim '21

# All-Staters

## Ayden Barringer '20

Soccer

## Peyton McCuan '20

Tennis

## Kaitlyn Bishop '20

Soccer

## Madeline Neff '20

Soccer

## Tyrell Bruner '23

Track, 110m Hurdles

## Presley Parker '21

Track, 1600m Relay

## Jeremy Gramajo '20

Soccer

## Thomas Raglow '20

Soccer

## Sabrina Guzman '23

Track, 1600m Relay

## Julia Richard '21

Track, 400m + 1600m Relay

## Samantha Guzman '21

Soccer

## Isabella Scherm '22

Track, High Jump

## Luke Mashburn '20

Soccer

## Dylan Sokolosky '21

Volleyball

## Ari Maxwell '24

Track, 1600m Relay



# Signings



**ANDREW CHAMBERS '21**  
committed to play football at the College of Siskiyous.



**SAMANTHA GUZMAN '21**  
committed to play soccer at Oral Robert University.



**GRADY MORTON '21**  
committed to cheer at the University of Oklahoma.



**JULIA RICHARD '21**  
committed to run track at the University of Tulsa.



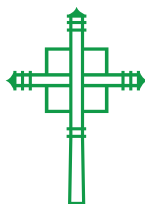
**DYLAN SOKOLOSKY '21**  
committed to play volleyball at Oklahoma City University.



**HUNTER SPEARS '21**  
committed to play football at University of Saint Mary.



**LUKE TARMAN '21**  
committed to play football at Oklahoma State University as a preferred walk-on.



## POM HIGHLIGHTS

# A New High Score: Pom Takes First at State Competition

By Avery Payne '23,  
Chi Rho yearbook staff

Even a pandemic couldn't stop the pom team from a state title. After long months of preparation and filming, their work paid off.

"Despite the challenges that stood in our way, we were still able to perform an amazing dance like nothing we have ever put on the state floor before," co-captain Kate Skarky '22 said.

Because the usual in-person state competition was canceled, the squad worked towards practicing their jazz routine that was pre-recorded and submitted virtually. Two weeks after submission, the girls projected the live-streamed award ceremony, awaiting their category, 5A Jazz. Upon hearing their team's name called for first place, the girls jumped up in celebration.

"Even though we won a state title my freshman year, this year was by far the hardest, and we faced more



▲ At Wantland Stadium, senior Jillian Hibbard engages the crowd at the state football game. State took place Dec. 12 against Carl Albert. Photo by Hannah Lee, Chi Rho yearbook editor

challenges than ever, making the win even better," Molly Mullins '22 said.

Pom placed first in overall jazz and outstanding choreography, earning their third title. On top of this, they achieved the highest total score of all classes and categories since 2015.

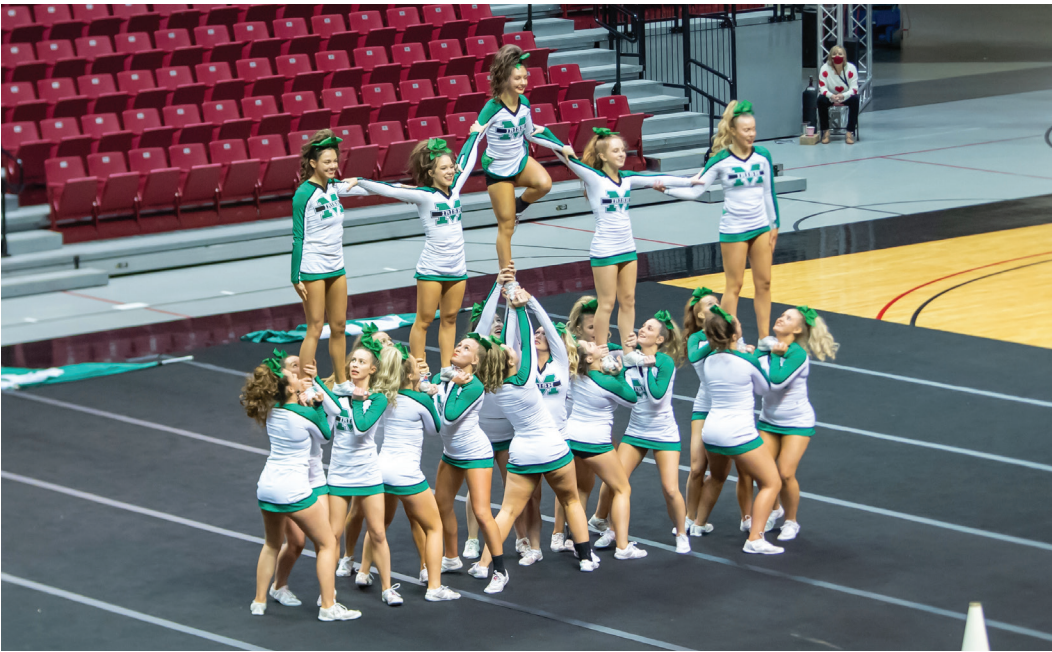
"The pom squad has provided a foundation for me to grow as both a person and a dancer," co-captain Jane Nelson '21 said. "I wouldn't trade these groups of girls for anything. We have never worked as hard as we did this season and thankfully, it paid off."



## SCHOOL RECORD

Not only did **Gabe Grim '21** take home 1st place in High Jump at the Carl Albert Invitational, he set the *NEW SCHOOL RECORD* — coming in at 6'10"!





◀ The Irish Cheer State Team had a phenomenal outcome at the State Championship in January 2021, placing 2nd in the state! Every year they offer a high caliber of difficulty as well as extreme entertainment.

CHEER HIGHLIGHTS

# Keep On Flying: Cheer Perseveres Despite Many Changes

By Hannah Lee '21  
Chi Rho yearbook editor

Cheering under the lights of Pribil Stadium on Friday nights and performing for the crowd of parents and students was not all cheer was about. The cheerleaders had multiple titles to defend.

These titles included being two-time national champions, 5A game day champions, and 5A state champions.

"Our biggest goal was keeping everyone healthy and motivated for state, so that we were able to be at our best," Natalie Waddell '23 said.

Starting practice in the summer, the girls prepared their 2021 state routine. Leading up to state, the OSSAA pushed back the date from September to January because of COVID-19 restrictions on crowd capacity. A week later, the OSSAA officials announced that regionals were canceled because of travel restrictions for the judges.

"They thought it would give more teams the opportunity to get out of quarantine and have the chance to compete, but it had the opposite effect," Coach Mandy Gerzewski said. "More teams had to drop because naturally during December/January illness runs rampant."

Placing second at state, the girls started to look towards their black light assembly performance, senior night and other festivities.

"Being able to have senior night with my friends was really special," Ali Anderson '21 said. "Being able to celebrate those moments this year, especially with COVID-19, made them even better."

FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

# Play by Play: Athletes Find Strength to Overcome Obstacles of Season

By Lane Adkins '21  
Chi Rho yearbook staff

In the midst of COVID-19, having a season of football looked to be improbable, but the team and staff adapted, persevering to have a full season and making it to state.

"There were a lot of things early on that were put in place where we tried to do the best that we could keeping the rules in place with what we had at the time," Coach Bryan Pierce said.

Protocols were set to ensure players and coaches stayed healthy and were not exposed to the virus.

After the teams played Lawton Sept. 25, those protocols were tested.

"They had a player test positive, and we had to go through our protocols," Pierce said. "There was a lot of game study and film study of that game trying to determine the amount of time that individuals were within contact with other players."

Despite it all, the season continued. The team still had challenges outside of the pandemic, but faced them with optimism.

"At the beginning of the season, we had already been counted out by everyone involved with 5A football," quarterback Luke Tarman '21 said. "I knew how talented we were, and, once we started rolling, it didn't stop. We lost a couple players early to injury, but once they returned in about week six, it felt like we couldn't lose."

Dec. 12 the team faced Carl Albert, the 2019 5A State Champion, for the state title. The Irish came up just short of a state title, losing to Carl Albert, 33-21.

"There has always got to be a winner and a loser," Pierce said. "Our kids went out and played their hearts out, and I think they played a great game."



◀ Jacob Nalagan (16) celebrates as Michael Taffe (9) breaks off for a long touchdown run.

Scan the QR code to watch a video of home football footage!



SCAN Me



## Section 4: Faith Highlights



Artwork created by  
Hannah Bernstein '22

## Father Grover

Fr. Danny Grover '03 completed his fifth year as school chaplain in June, four months after being appointed pastor of St. Matthew's, Elk City, and Queen of All Saints, Sayre.

As with four years of high school, serving as chaplain for five years provided Grover fond memories and many life lessons.

"I was very anxious my first year to serve as chaplain as many of my own high school teachers were now colleagues," Fr. Grover said. "I remember fondly the first teacher's in-service Mass where I was overwhelmed during the homily as I looked out and realized that I was now to be the spiritual shepherd for Mr. Morton (my high school principal), Ms. Hathcoat (the only person I ever got in trouble with in my high school career), Sister Sanchez (a spiritual staple for the McGuinness community for decades), Deacon Clyde Grover (my own dad), and many other teachers and mentors."

Over time, Grover grew more comfortable. In fact, for the last few months of the spring semester, Grover drove an hour and 40 minutes from Elk City each Tuesday so that he could continue to serve the Irish community. Reflecting on his time as chaplain, Grover spoke fondly of the people, the relationships, the friendships, and the school atmosphere. He said these are things he will take with him in life and ministry.

As chaplain, Grover taught weekly theology classes, attended Kairos retreats, met with teachers and students to help minister to them, and attended numerous sporting events.

"From open forum question and answer periods in class, to helping people better themselves spiritually, to helping to form them on the field, I will miss being a



▲ Father Danny Grover poses for picture with his father, the late Deacon Clyde Grover, after Mass in the school chapel.

shepherd and guide to the students and working closely with the faculty the most," Grover said.

Though neither Elk City nor Sayre have Catholic schools, Grover says he will take with him the many lessons that he learned while working with McGuinness students.

"My first class of confirmation that I spoke in within a month of the new assignment, I was able to be open and frank with the students about the fact that many of them were going to the classes for confirmation not because it was their choice, but because their parents wanted them there," Grover said. "By the end of our class times that first semester, we were able to form a bond around the Gospel, Truth, and a relational understanding.

"I thoroughly appreciated and loved my time as Chaplain at Bishop McGuinness. It truly has become my home away from home!"



SENIOR SERVICE PROJECT

# Seeking Service: COVID Restrictions Force Students to Find New Ways to Give Back

By Landry Jansen '22  
Chi Rhoan newspaper staff writer

As students alter every aspect of their lives, they are forced to come up with creative ways to collect service hours.

Several new options are offered this year due to the increasing COVID restrictions. These include things as simple as helping your neighbor carry in their groceries and popping tabs at home.

Daniel Webber '21 has been earning service hours in many different ways.

"I've logged onto the Zoomiverse, made video lectures for the Calculus III classes, sang in the choir, and mentored the robotics team at John Carroll," Webber said.

However, many students are struggling to find ways to earn enough service hours before the end of the semester.

Theology teacher and Campus Minister Kelly Allen encourages students to use these opportunities to stock up on service hours.

"Right now is the easiest time it will ever be to get service hours," Allen said.



Freshmen especially are new to earning service hours, making it difficult to complete their required hours. However, Kendall West '24 has found not one but two ways to earn service hours that she really enjoys.

"I am managing the girls basketball team," West said. "I really enjoy it because I have bonded with the girls, and I just enjoy being around basketball. I am also a part of the Payne Education Teen Board, which has been a great way to earn service hours and get involved in the community."

Earning service hours is not just about completing an assignment. It's about giving back to the community and those who are less fortunate. It is about finding a cause that students are passionate about and helping make a difference.

"I really encourage people to figure out what it is they care about and then do some type of service that goes along with that," Allen said. "Not just thinking 'I have to get these hours so I'll just do this one thing.' Or like I did in high school, go outside your comfort zone, and it can have a lifelong impact on you."

West came from a non-Catholic feeder school; therefore, the concept of service hours is new to her.

"I think giving back is always important, especially being a Christian," West said. "I feel giving back is part of being a good person."





IRISH 4 LIFE

# Jackie Nguyen & Maggie Forth

By Jackie Nguyen

For me, Irish4Life was a leap of faith that took more than just courage to pursue. It all started with an invitation to a movie and a casual high table conversation. During an after school chat with Maggie Forth, who is now the Irish4Life Co-President, the topic of the pro-life movement arose as a result of a conspicuous 10-week old unborn baby keychain on my backpack. We exchanged our concerns, our fears, and our desire to make a difference.

I knew after that conversation that Maggie and I were definitely on the same wavelength.

“After adjusting and finding my footing in high school, I wanted more than just going through the motions,” Maggie said. “Growing up a cradle Catholic, pro-life values were beliefs I always had, but didn’t know how to put into action.”

In March of 2019, the Pure Flix film “Unplanned” was released nationwide. It depicted the journey of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director turned world-renowned pro-life advocate. Watching the film stirred many emotions in my heart, mostly feelings of discomfort — fear, anger, conviction, and ultimately an obligation to find a way to contribute to the pro-life movement and to find a way to make abortion unthinkable. Unbeknownst to me, this nonchalant invitation to the film “Unplanned” from my mom on another Saturday night would spark a desire inside me to defend life and explore the truth of the pro-life movement.

The film itself launched a mere thought in the back of my head: a pro-life club at Bishop McGuinness.

However, I was a naive freshman, walking into high school unaware of the world around me and far from attentive to the political climate or what being pro-life entailed. In April of 2019, the State of Alabama passed the Human Life Protection Act, banning nearly all abortions in the state and as expected, the media went wild. Post after post, I perused Instagram and witnessed the scarcity of the pro-life movement, especially in the media with an audience of young people, just like me. For 13 months, I wrestled with the idea of initiating a pro-life club, terrified of the backlash I’d face, but it felt like a vocation I couldn’t ignore.

Maggie expressed the same concerns.

“It was nerve-racking to start such a controversial club, but we used the need for a safe place to talk and to be educated as motivation to finish what we started,” Maggie said. “We worked with other local high schools to build relationships that would be a support system for the rise of pro-life clubs. We planned events that were service based, educational, and engaging. Our success was a direct result of teenagers receiving support from each other that turned into confidence and the ability to take pride in the difference we would be making in our community.”

Confidence grew inside of me and in the next few weeks, we started to take the steps needed to formally become Irish4Life. Two weeks after our initial proposal, our lives were thrown into a worldwide pandemic but persevering, we became official via Zoom and immediately began to plan our inaugural year. Word spread and Irish4Life



quickly became an unexpected catalyst as both Mount St. Mary’s and Cristo Rey High School formed pro-life chapters and together. We would form a valuable network of young pro-life leaders.

The notion of pro-life in society today often connotes a “pro-birth” position, only concerned with abolishing abortion. However, the true pro-life stance encompasses all human life from conception until natural death. Taking this into account, we assigned a distinct life issue to each month from suicide prevention to human trafficking, gender equality, euthanasia, abortion, and more. In our first few months, Irish4Life formed valuable partnerships with fellow pro-life organizations including the Archdiocese’s Respect Life Ministry, Students for Life of America, Gospel of Life Dwellings, Willow Pregnancy Center and more. Initiating the school’s first Yellow Ribbon Week, Irish4Life advocated for

suicide prevention awareness in our community, distributing yellow ribbons and resource cards to the Bishop McGuinness community. With monthly masked meetings and frequent service opportunities, Irish4Life not only survived amongst the tense climate, but thrived.

To be completely honest, there’s no way my freshman self would have believed Irish4Life would be where it is today. Sometimes it’s even difficult for me, as a senior, to believe the magnitude of the growth of Irish4Life. But, I can only attribute our success to the fact that our faith enabled us to extinguish our fears with the guidance of God. This empowered us with the gifts of fortitude and tenacity to defend life in all its forms. I am eager to see where the next generation of pro-life leaders at Bishop McGuinness leads us, far after this generation of Irish4Life moves on to their next chapter in life, college.



# Section 5: Class of 2021 Highlights



Artwork created by  
Hannah Bernstein '22

## Legacies



**WYATT LANPHEAR '21** with grandmother Christie Maier Patric '69, grandfather Bill Patric Jr. '69 and mother Nicole Patric Lanphear '90



**MOLLY GODFREY '21** with father Bill Godfrey '95, and brother Will Godfrey '18



**PEYTON MCCUAN '21** with grandmother Becky Rodriguez Burgess '68, great aunt Cathy Rodriguez Blott '74, aunt Rebecca Burgess Holmboe '01, and Mackenzie McCuan '17



**PATRAIC MICHAEL KIERL '21** with father Michael Kierl '78 and brother Peter Kierl '19



**JACKSON AND GRADY MORTON '21** with grandpa John A. Hobbs '51 and mother Kristy Hobbs Morton '85



**JANE NELSON '21** with father Eric Nelson '89 and mother Leslie Rundell Nelson '90



**HANNAH LEE '21** with grandfather John Wilkinson '65, grandmother Judi Murray Wilkinson '66, father Cavett Lee '94, mother Ashley Wilkinson Lee '95, aunt Jill Wilkinson Tate '98, uncle Sonny Wilkinson '04, and brother Killian Lee '19



**COOPER MOODY '21** with mother Kelly McHugh Moody '87, Coleman Moody '15, and Carter Moody '18



**JILLIAN HIBBARD '21** with brother Jackson Hibbard '18



# Legacies



**EVYN LEHR '21** with mother Carlin Arnold Lehr '93



**GAVIN JOHNSTON '21** with father Carter Johnston '87



**JULIA RICHARD '21** with mother Jennifer Airington Richard '93



**JAKE WILLIAMS '21** with sister Hannah Williams '15



**DANIEL ALLEN '21** with Therese Kierl Allen '79



**TIMOTHY SCHWARTZ '21** with great uncle Ted McLaughlin '68



**DYLAN SOKOLOSKY '21** with sister Killian Sokolosky '12, and sister Elizabeth Cloe '16



**ELYSE MERRITT CRONIC '21** with mother Danielle Nafieh Cronic '95 and uncle the late Blake E. Naifeh '98



**RACHEL ABBOTT '21** with mother Maria Thompson Abbott '87



**MASON HOPKINS '21** with aunt Vicki Miller Tribble '78 and mother Amy Miller Hopkins '89



**EMILY MCDOUGALL '21** with sister Megan McDougall '19



**JACKSON EDMONDS '21** with father Brad Edmonds '85, and Annemarie Edmonds '20



**CATHERINE LEONARD '21** with father Ryan Leonard '90



**GRACE ENGEL '21** with father Chris Engel '78, sister Anne Marie Engel '16, and brother Joseph Engel '18



**GRACE THIELKE '21** with mother Jennifer Brou Thielke '89 and sister Mia Thielke '19



**JULIANNE BENTLEY '21** with father Steven Bentley '88 and brother Parker Bentley '18



**SHELBY SAVELY '21** with grandmother Frances Smith Savely '70, father Gabe Savely '93 and sister Sarah Savely '18



**LUKE CHANSOLME '21** with grandmother Rita O'Meara Mullins '68, father David Chansolme '89, and sister Natalie Chansolme '18



Legacies



**NATALIE EDMONDS '21** with father Bentley Edmonds '81, mother Lisa Ruffin Edmonds '82, brother Joe Edmonds '12 and sister Adele Edmonds '15



**JAKE MARGO '21** with mother Debbie Chansolme Margo '91



**LIV MESSINA '21** with grandfather Jim McAuliff '68, mother Stephanie McAuliff Heffington '94, and the late Craig McAuliff '04



**MATTHEW HARDIN '21** with sister Jessica Hardin '17, and brother Johnathon Hardin '19



**JACOB ELDER '21** with mother Ashley Waul Elder '93, and father Blair Elder '93



**CAROLINE ROTEN '21** with grandmother Lil Ryan Ross '56, mother Becky Ross Roten '81, and brother William Roten '19



**CASEY GORMLEY '21** with uncle Jim Gormley '83, father Andrew Gormley '89, and brother Kohl Gormley '19



**CHARLES WILLIAMS '21** with father Wade Williams '83



**MICHAEL GOODMAN '21** with sister Katie Goodman '17



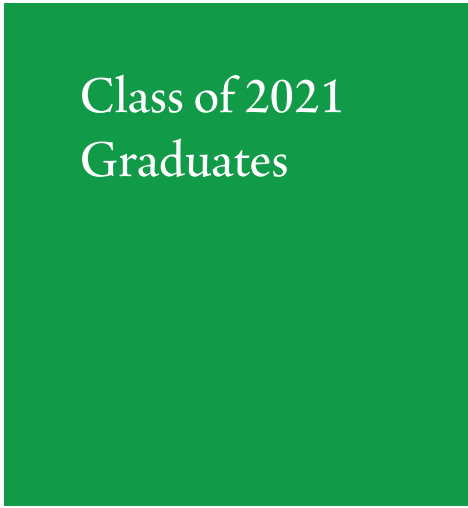
**PETER WATKINS '21** with sister Julie Watkins '16



**CARSON RICE '21** with father Tim Rice '89 and sister Kelsey Rice '18

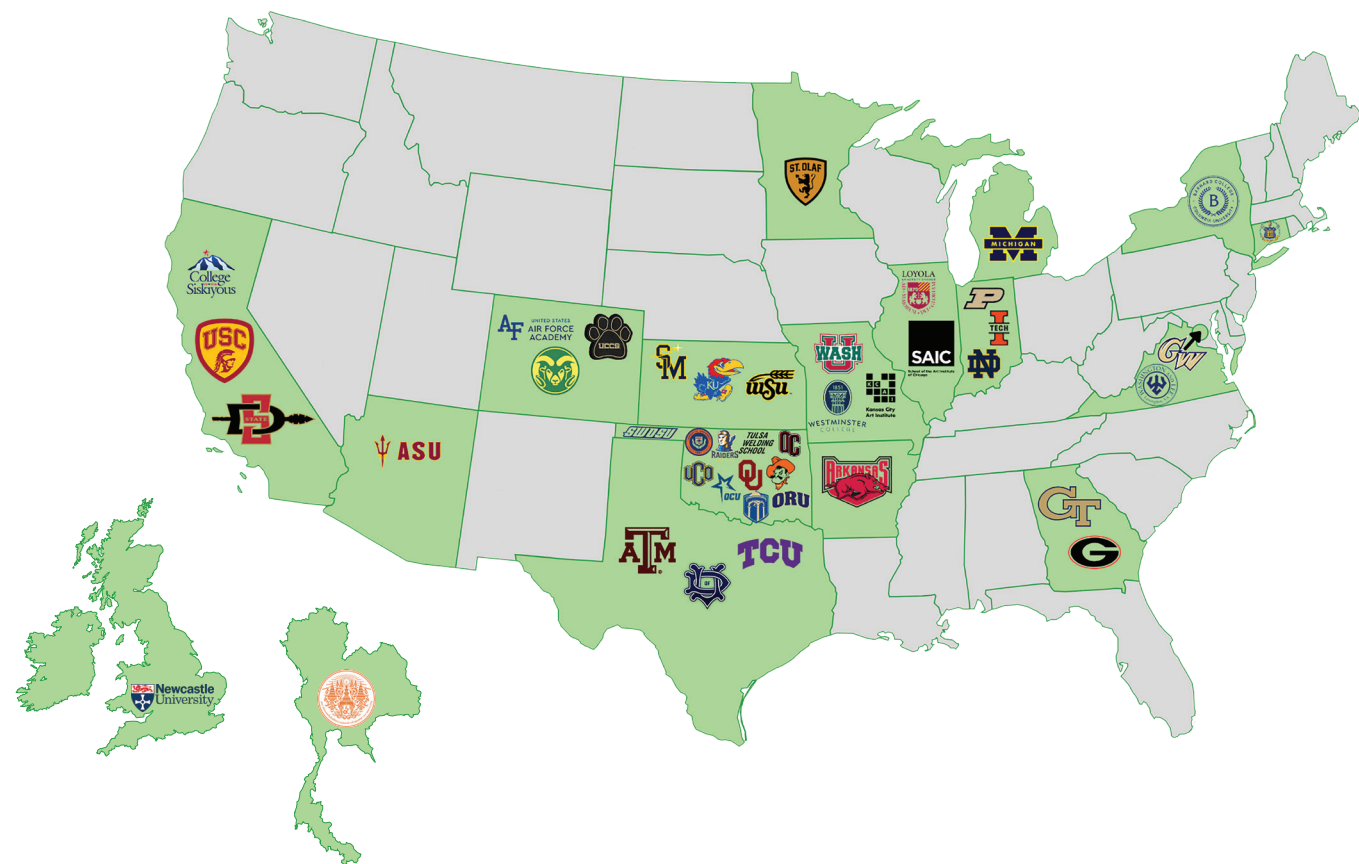


**JACKSON NASHERT '21** with father Brant Nashert '78





# Schools Attending



**CLASS OF 2021 WILL  
BE ATTENDING THE  
FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:**

Barnard College of Columbia University, College of the Siskiyous, Colorado State, East Central University, Georgetown University, Georgia Tech, Indiana Tech, Kansas City Art Institute, King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in Bangkok Thailand, Langston University, Loyla University, Newcastle University, Northern Oklahoma College, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City, Oral Roberts University, Purdue University, Rose State College,

San Diego State University, South Western Oklahoma State University, St. Olaf College, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, The Art Institute of Chicago, Trinity University, United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy Prep School, University of Arkansas, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Colorado, University of Dallas,

University of Georgia, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, University of Oklahoma, University of Saint Mary, University of Southern California, University of Tulsa, Washington and Lee University, Washington University, Westminster College, Wichita State University

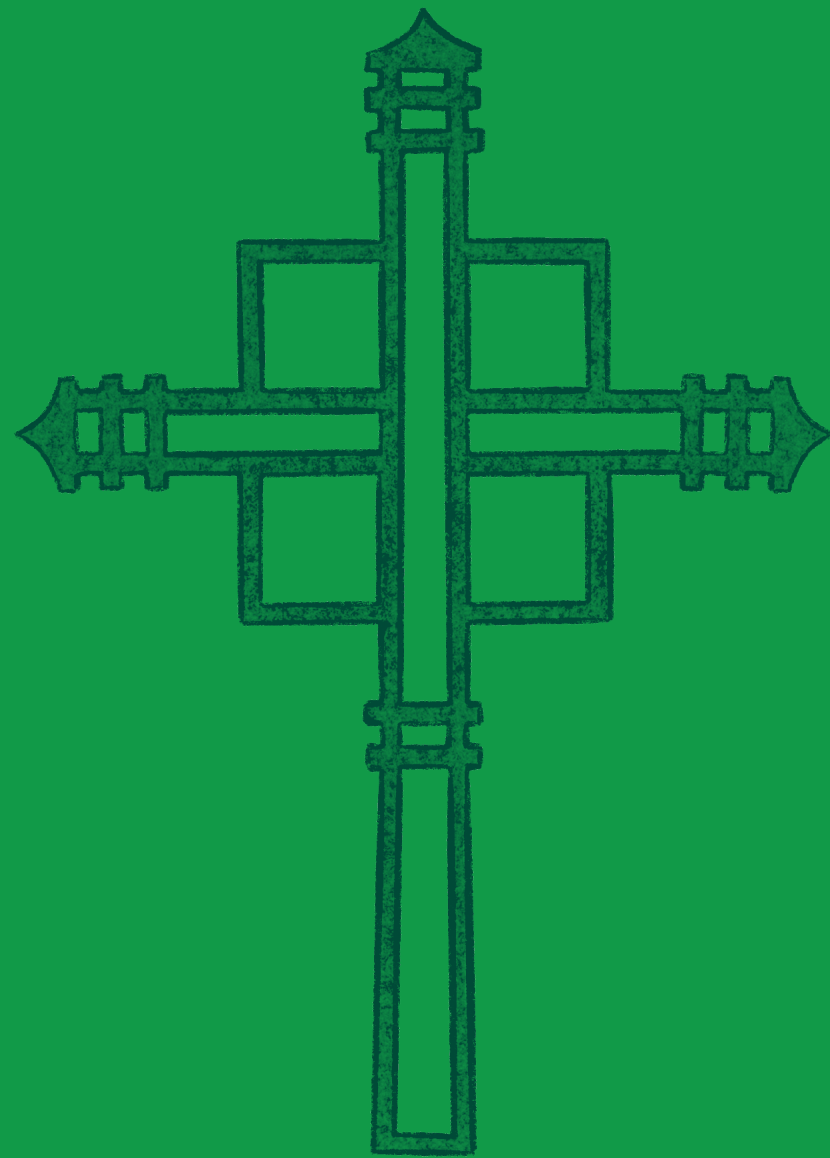
Graduates begin the next chapter of their lives all over the country. From New York to California, they plan to attend 39 different schools across the United States as well as one in England and another in Thailand.

# Accepted Colleges

Arizona State University	Langston University	Southern Nazerene University	University of Colorado Springs
Auburn University	Lewis and Clark	Southwestern Oklahoma State University	University of Dallas
Barnard College	Louisiana State University	St. John’s University	University of Delaware
Baylor University	Loyola Marymount University	St. Olaf College	University of Denver
Boston College	Loyola University Chicago	State University of New York Purchase College	University of Edinburgh
Boston University	Loyola University New Orleans	Stony Brook University	University of Exeter
California State University	Macalester College	Syracuse University	University of Georgia
Case Western Reserve University	Millikin University	Texas A&M University	University of Houston
Central Michigan University	Montclair State University	Texas Christian University	University of Illinois
Chapman University,	New York University	Texas State University	University of Kansas
Claremont McKenna College	Newcastle University	Trinity College	University of Manchester,
Clemson University	Northern Oklahoma College	Trinity University	University of Michigan
College of the Siskiyous	Northumbria University	United States Air Force Academy	University of Mississippi
College of William & Mary	Oklahoma Christian University	United States Military Academy Preparatory School	University of Missouri
Colorado School of Mines	Oklahoma City Community College	United States Naval Academy	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Colorado State University	Oklahoma City University	University College London	University of North Texas
Davidson College	Oklahoma State University	University of Alabama	University of Notre Dame
DePaul University	Oral Roberts University	University of Arkansas	University of Oklahoma
Durham University	Otterbein University	University of California Berkeley	University of Richmond,
East Carolina University	Pace University	University of California Irvine	University of San Diego
Emerson College	Pepperdine Univiersity	University of California San Diego	University of San Francisco
Emory University	Purdue University	University of California Santa Barbara	University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
Florida State University	Rhode Island School of Design	University of California Santa Cruz	University of South Carolina
Fordham University	Rider University	University of California, Los Angeles	University of Southern California
Furman University	Rose State College	University of Central Oklahoma	University of St. Mary
George Washington University	Saint Louis University	University of Chester	University of Tulsa
Georgetown University	Saint Mary’s College	University of Colorado Boulder	University of Wake Forest University
Georgia Tech	San Diego State University,		Washington and Lee University
Hillsdale College	Savannah College of Art and Design		Washington University
Indiana Tech	School of the Art Institute of Chicago		Western Colorado University
Ithaca College	Southern Methodist University		Westminster College
Kansas City Art Institute			Wichita State University
Kansas State University			
King Mongkut’s Institution of Technology Ladkrabang			



## Section 6: Alumni Highlights



# Alumni Highlight

## The Honorable Bernard M. Jones

The Honorable Bernard M. Jones, who was sworn into the U.S. District Court for Western District of Oklahoma in 2020, recently reflected on his time at McGuinness and its impact on his life and career path.





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

# The Honorable Bernard M. Jones

**Q:** Tell us a little bit about yourself—your life, hobbies, family.

**A:** I am a proud native Oklahoman and 1997 graduate of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. I'm married to Dr. Mautra Staley Jones, The Journal Record's 2020 Woman of the Year and the 2021 National Mother of the Year as named by American Mothers, Inc., and we have three children—Bernard III ("BJ"), Kennedy, and Brendan. As a busy public servant and father of three young children, life doesn't afford many hobbies. I do, however, enjoy reading, watching a good movie, and attending my children's sporting activities.

**Q:** What activities did you participate in while at Bishop McGuinness?

**A:** I was an active member of the McGuinness community, but devoted a great deal of my time to student government. I had the honor of serving as president of my freshman and sophomore classes, parliamentarian my junior year, and student council president my final year at McGuinness. I was also involved in campus ministry, Spanish Club, and National Honor Society.

**Q:** Following high school, where did you attend college? What was your college journey and postgraduate journey?



**A:** Following high school, I attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where I majored in political science and minored in Spanish. From the time I was a young student, I knew I wanted to be an attorney so I applied to various schools all over the country, was admitted to several, and eventually accepted the offer of admission to Notre Dame Law School. I ultimately chose Notre Dame because it reinforced the values that were instilled in me at McGuinness—faith, service, and sacrifice.

**Q:** Tell us a little about your career path that has led you to your current position.

**A:** Upon graduating from Notre Dame, I accepted an offer to join a law firm in Columbus, Ohio, practicing labor and employment and commercial litigation. I was eventually recruited back to Oklahoma to join the litigation practice group at McAfee & Taft, where I remained until joining the administrative faculty at Oklahoma City University School of Law, initially as assistant and later as associate dean. Desiring to have a greater impact

**A:** on the legal profession, I applied for and was appointed by Governor Mary Fallin as District Judge for Oklahoma County. I served as a state court trial judge for just over three years until being appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma in July 2015. On Oct. 17, 2019, I was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to a lifetime appointment as United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, and confirmed by the United States Senate on Dec. 19, 2019, by a vote of 91-3.

I have had a diverse and distinguished career, one that very few enjoy at my age. I attribute a large part of my success to McGuinness and the professionals there who helped to ensure my matriculation. I rarely share, but following the first semester of my sophomore year, my parents advised that they could no longer afford to pay tuition and I would have to leave McGuinness to attend a public school. But my McGuinness angels (Steve Parsons, John Carl, Michelle McGannon, David Morton, and Anne Hathcoat) saw great potential in me and had another plan. They found scholarships, allowed me to take part in the work grant program, and demonstrated great flexibility as I paid my tuition utilizing money earned from my after school employment. There is little doubt that I'd be where I am and have achieved all that I have but for my angels.

**Q:** What challenges and successes have you experienced in your career path?

**A:** The challenges and success have been many, but equally integral in directing my path. I learned many years ago that one should count it all joy because it's part of God's good and perfect plan. So, even in the less-than-ideal moments, I found a way to be thankful, to learn from those experiences, and to view every success and challenge as a growth opportunity.

**Q:** How did your time at McGuinness help guide you to such an important and successful career?

**A:** My time at McGuinness served as my grounding experience; I learned the importance of faith—faith in oneself and faith in a living Savior. If I believed in me and in the plan God had for me, the insurmountable doesn't exist.

**Q:** What advice would you give a current student just beginning their professional journey?

**A:** Work hard. Keep the Faith. And, be a service-minded person of purpose.





# Message from Alumni Executive Committee President

To Bishop McGuinness Family and Friends:  
It's our pleasure to welcome the newest graduates of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, the Class of 2021. Congratulations Graduates!

As you move on today to a very complex and competitive world, it is important to remember who helped you reach this day. Your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, your teachers, counselors, and your friends. They all were part of your accomplishments and success. They will also all be a part of this next chapter, so don't be afraid to ask them for help and advice when you need it. The last two years you have had to develop patience, fortitude, and flexibility way beyond your years. These assets will serve you for the rest of your life! So remember when life hands you lemons, make lemonade!

**The Bishop McGuinness Alumni Executive Committee keeps alumni connected to their alma mater; it strengthens the bonds among alumni and their families; it helps all members thrive in their faith, through fellowship and service on behalf of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and the wider community; and it promotes each member's growth in becoming a Christ-centered Person for Others.**

The Alumni Executive Committee holds fundraising events throughout the school year to provide financial aid for those who qualify through need. The Alumni Executive Committee proudly awarded 12 scholarships this past school year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events include:

**February 26, 2022**  
Singo

**August 27, 2022**  
Trivia Night

If you would like to participate in any of our events, please follow us on social media or visit the Bishop McGuinness website. The Alumni Executive Committee President for the 2021-2022 school year will be Alexa Lienhard. I am so excited for Alexa to lead the committee going forward. Congratulations, Alexa. You will do great!

Go Irish!

**Carly J. Wegener Wilson '98**  
**Alumni Executive Committee President**



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

# Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Announces 2021 Distinguished Alumni of the Year

**Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School awarded Dr. David Chansolme, 1989 graduate, with its Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award during the 2021 Commencement Ceremony on May 19.**

The award was established 22 years ago to recognize outstanding alumni, and their commitment to the goals and objectives of BMCHS. It highlights the importance of what it means to be a person for others through their actions not only in the Irish community, but also in their community and church.

"This year's alumni award is presented to someone who could not be more deserving, especially during the last year," said Carly Wilson, Bishop McGuinness Alumni Executive Committee President. "David Chansolme has demonstrated Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School mission statement: to be a person for others, a million times over."

Dr. Chansolme cares for those in the community on a daily basis through his work at the hospital, educating the community with social media videos, volunteering at church, Bishop McGuinness, and the many boards he serves on. He is never afraid to take a phone call, give advice or take on a leadership role. Dr. Chansolme supports many causes and often does so anonymously. He does these things not for recognition but with a giving and caring



▲ **Dr. David Chansolme**  
1989 Graduate

heart because he truly cares. Those experiences have grounded him in the Catholic faith and supported his involvement in the Catholic community.

Catholic education is an integral part of the Chansolme family, having graduated from Rosary Catholic School and BMCHS – and remain connected to his alma maters and enduring friendships. This tradition has continued with his four children who have all attended Christ the King Catholic School and BMCHS. Dr. Chansolme can always be seen at BMCHS football and basketball games, and track meets cheering on the Irish.

Dr. Chansolme is a true friend to all and cares deeply about the career path he has chosen and the people he serves.



GABE IKARD

# A Lifelong Dedication to the Game

By Liam Keating

Gabe Ikard '09 has had a career of ups and downs from job offers to being fired, but there's no doubt his mantra of hard work has helped him become one of the state's best radio and podcasting personalities.

The former Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and the University of Oklahoma Sooners football standout has turned to the microphone as his latest profession. Ikard is the current host of The Oklahoma Breakdown podcast, a Sooner Sports Network analyst and the host of Big 12 Today on Sirius XM radio. But, he did have a tumultuous professional football career after a stellar four years with Oklahoma that included his proudest moment ever.

It came in 2014 when OU traveled to New Orleans to face Alabama in the Sugar Bowl. Ikard was stepping onto the plane before the team flew to Louisiana. Former OU Head Coach, Bob Stoops, pulled Ikard to the side. "Alright, Gabe, I'm gonna let you set a curfew," Ikard recounted in his Stoops impersonation. "What do you want for tonight?" Ikard responded with, "2 A.M." Stoops agreed. "I could not believe it," Ikard said. "I got to announce it on the plane and I had never felt like I had accomplished something so significant in my life."

Days later, Ikard and the Sooners would defeat Alabama 45-31. This was Ikard's final game as a collegiate athlete. Next stop the NFL Draft for the offensive lineman that played tight end for Bishop McGuinness.

Ikard would not be selected in the 2014 NFL draft and there was only that feeling that was felt when



players were being picked ahead of him. "It sucked, it sucked, it was humbling."

But, he would sign with the Tennessee Titans as an undrafted free agent. Ikard was playing well enough to make the 53 man roster during training camp, but during the third preseason game for the Titans, Ikard blew his knee out. He tore his ACL and meniscus which marked his first major injury of his career.

In 2015, Ikard joined the Buffalo Bills as a backup center after successfully rehabbing his knee. It was after an offensive lineman meeting when O-line coordinator, Aaron Kromer, pulled Ikard aside and told him that he was being moved to tight end, a position he hadn't played in years.

"Finally the hard work has paid off," Ikard said. "I'm getting the break. I'm going from sitting on the bench to being a starter and playing a bunch of snaps." Offensive Coordinator, Greg Roman, talked to Ikard at the next practice to make sure he knew the plan. Ikard was ready and amped to finally play meaningful snaps when he was approached by General Manager, Doug Whaley. "After practice Doug Whaley pulls me aside and tells me he's cutting me," Ikard said. "Whaley tells me, 'Don't worry you'll be back Monday, we have to bring this running back up.'"

Ikard never came back to Buffalo that Monday, he was picked up off of waivers by the Cleveland Browns

and missed out on his chance of playing minutes in the NFL. But, Ikard was only on the Browns for six days. "I was excited to be fired by the Browns," Ikard said. "That means, I can get back to Buffalo and get some snaps."

Unfortunately, there were teams with worse records than Buffalo thus they were higher on the waiver wire. Ikard was a hot commodity and the Bills couldn't pick him up. He was claimed off waivers by the Detroit Lions instead.

"It was excruciating," Ikard said. "It took a toll on me. I sat there waiting for my turn and it never worked out."

Ikard would continue to grind his way through the NFL with more stops in Buffalo, Cleveland, Denver, and New Orleans. None of these places provided Ikard with what he truly desired, playing time. In 2018, after his time with the Saints, Ikard retired from NFL life.

"Bouncing around that much, I met so many great people," Ikard said. "When you are on that many teams, you've met so many guys and made life-long friends. It was not the way I wanted it to go, but it was a lot of fun."



During his short time in Denver, Ikard turned to radio to host his own show on 107.7 The Franchise. After his NFL career, this time on the radio helped prepare him for his next occupation. Ikard said. "I fell into the TV and radio work because people remembered how I interacted with the media at OU by treating them with respect and valuing their time."

Ikard would have his own talk show on 107.7 for two years, but due to COVID-19 budgeting restrictions, the company had to let Ikard go. Ikard started his own podcast, The Oklahoma Breakdown. Teddy Lehman, co-host, and Ikard have developed a strong connection in story telling and analyzing all Oklahoma sports from the University to the Thunder.

"Our goal is to be the go-to podcast for sports fans in the state of Oklahoma," Ikard said.

Ikard is doing just that, he is working hard to create one of the best podcasts in the state by utilizing a phrase that has been with him through his successful high school, college and NFL career.

"If you put the work in, you put the time in, you will get rewarded."



WILL LIENHARD

## Playing Basketball Overseas

When 2015 graduate Will Lienhard received the phone call from his agent, he had only been out of the country once and that was to Mexico for his Senior Spring Break trip.

The former Bishop McGuinness standout basketball player, Lienhard received his first professional basketball contract in December 2020 with Zestaponi. Before his dream of playing professional basketball became a reality, Lienhard had been fortunate to earn a spot on the McGuinness varsity basketball team as a freshman. One of his favorite memories was helping the Fighting Irish secure that famous state championship win in 2013.

After graduation, the 6'8" forward received an appointment to the Naval Academy where he was recruited to play basketball. Within a month of attending plebe summer, Lienhard realized that the military life was not the right fit for him. Lienhard decided to return home to Oklahoma where he made some phone calls and with three weeks before the 2015 Fall session began, he became a preferred walk-on for the Oklahoma State Cowboys basketball team. This was a very exciting time because Lienhard had been a big OSU fan his entire life. "Growing up, this was my dream school," Lienhard said. "I was in awe more than anything."

The life of a walk-on is every bit the same as a scholarship player. Workouts, practice, team meetings along with college classes filled each day. Lienhard redshirted his freshman year. He liked getting to know the players and liked being a college athlete. When his sophomore year came around in 2016, Lienhard started to play a bit more which included playing in the prestigious Maui Invitational. Lienhard recorded five minutes of action in which he hauled in a rebound



during the Cowboy's victory over Georgetown. Although his time at OSU was memorable, the one thing missing for Lienhard was being a key part of a team. He wanted more playing time.

So, once again, he set his sights on what the next opportunity waiting for him might be. Familiar with nearby Oklahoma Christian, as former McGuinness players had gone to play at OC, Lienhard reached out to the coaches there and they granted him his wish. "The first month was getting used to being a vocal part of a team again and seeing what I could do," Lienhard said. "The second month, I was like, I'm probably going to play a large role in our team winning."

Lienhard was right. He was a large contributor to Oklahoma Christian's ability to reach victory. At each game for the Division II School, he would collect rebound after rebound. Every night he was the most dominant player inside the paint. Lienhard's strengths were focused on the defensive end of the court. He was named Defensive Player of the Conference his senior year. In 2019, Lienhard became DII's leading rebounder in the country with 12.7 rebounds per game.

This is the first time an Oklahoma Christian player had received this high honor of holding the record for this statistic. He finished the season with 368 total rebounds, which earned him the title of second most all time rebounds in the conference. On three different occasions, he recorded 21 rebounds in a single game including an 84-80 upset win over the #2 ranked team in the country, St. Edwards. Lienhard helped secure the victory with two final free throws at the end of the game to give OC the win. "The St. Edward's game was definitely up there as one of my favorite games," Lienhard said.

After graduating with a bachelor's and master's degree from Oklahoma Christian, it was time for Lienhard to move on from college basketball. As one of the best rebounders in the country, he was garnering attention from professional teams across Europe. It was April 2020 when Lienhard was able to link up with an agent to help him sign a contract to play overseas, but due to COVID-19, leagues were starting to shut down. When the call finally came, Lienhard's agent phoned him with a new prospect of playing in Georgia. "I'll go. I don't care where it is," Lienhard said. "I want to keep playing and at least try it out." The style of Georgian basketball had

its ups and downs as his team finished third place in the league. Lienhard had to learn a whole new style of offense dedicated to the pick-and-roll, which dominates professional hoops. Lienhard continued to crash the glass having games of over 10 rebounds consistently.

**He finished the season averaging seven points, 10 rebounds, and three blocks.**

Each experience in Lienhard's basketball career led him to a new chapter in his life. Each experience allowed him the opportunity to learn and grow as a person, a student, and a player.

Lienhard returned to the U.S. this past May and began a new job in Dallas, Texas with Republic Finance. He hopes to find a men's league in the Dallas area where he can continue playing the game he loves.





ANNE-MARIE MEE

## Advocating for Animals Through Art

By Liam Keating

It wasn't fashion photo shoots for Armani in Europe that piqued Anne-Marie Mee's interest in wildlife photography, but a dissection of a cat during her junior year in Mr. Howe's anatomy class. It piqued the 1987 graduate's interest in animals and how she could be of help to them.

The professional wildlife photographer who currently resides in Durango, Colorado has been in the area for five and half years. She has helped many wildlife protection boards and used her photography to spark awareness for animals across Colorado.

Her journey started in 2018 when she was driving in the Durango area and found a bobcat hunting. She pulled over to the side of the road and took out her point and shoot camera.

"I sat with a bobcat for two hours in the snow just watching it hunt and taking pictures. I thought, 'If I can capture it on a little camera, I could surely do something with a good camera to capture close, intimate interactions.'" Mee said. It is a coincidence that Mee's first publication in a magazine was of that bobcat.

After that moment, she would then meet film directors and biologists who studied bears in the area. She helped co-produce a documentary on black bears in the area. Their goal was to showcase bears in a safe way that helped protect the species, and hopefully help maintain a safe coexistence for the community.

"I learned that photography conveys emotions instantly and sometimes more effectively than words. I can capture a moment in time that will never be again," Mee said. It then gave her the drive to become better



at documenting the animals lives, then she could help be the voice for those species without a voice.

According to Mee, she is really like a hunter. She has learned where certain species will hunt or sleep. Her knowledge of the topography of Durango and the surrounding areas is what makes her a successful photographer.

One of her favorite photos that she was able to capture is of a mountain lion perched high in a tree. The mountain lion had come down from the mountain to find water and was spooked by a dog early in the morning. So, the mountain lion headed for safety in the limbs of a tree. Mee walked by the tree and noticed the big cat and hurried to bring her car to the scene so there could be a buffer of protection between the animal and the photographer. Mee explained how rare and nerve-racking it was to photograph a mountain lion up close and personal.

"She [mountain lion] heard the camera and woke up. She looked at me and started to move towards me," Mee said. "Then, we just stared eye to eye for the longest time, which made me a tad nervous. But, the mountain lion finally just sat down and stared at

me calmly. She wasn't aggressive nor was there any tension as she just went back to sleep in the tree."

It's these experiences of being connected with animals that Mee emphasizes the most. She wants to feel what the animal is feeling in their natural habitat. This is one of the ways to truly understand the animal, learn how they are existing, watch them survive and, just be wild, Mee explained.

"I have one local photographer that calls me Mrs. Doolittle, because I am always able to get a great relationship going with these animals and they're not threatened by me," Mee said. "I don't feel threatened by them, we usually have an understanding, it seems. As long as I can look into their eyes before I take a photo and they are comfortable, it always makes for an unbelievable experience.

Mee is a part of the Bear Smart Durango Board, which educates locals about the importance of keeping bear habitats safe and reducing wildlife interactions. She is also part of a Bear Working Group and assists with organizations out of state. Mee also sits on the board for the college, Fort Lewis College, and helps bring awareness to the campus.

Mee's mission of helping animals through her photography is one of the many ways humans are using their talents to help mitigate the warming of the earth and slow the extinction of species around the globe. Everyday, she sees the effects of warming and human encroachment on the animals. "At times it is very heartbreaking to see the changes impacting all species," Mee said. "It's not just getting 'the shot' anymore that's important, but documenting the change in our biodiversity that is happening in hopes it can help make a difference for the future."

You can find Mee's wildlife photographs on  
Facebook and Instagram [@parisusa](#).





FATHER BRANNON LEPAK

# Newly Ordained

By Liam Keating

While making stops across the country and around the world, Fr. Brannon Lepak '94 was teaching English and listening to God's call. Fr. Lepak was ordained a priest on June 26 with his first assignment at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Norman.

It was at Bishop McGuinness where Fr. Lepak first remembers his vocation starting to flourish in his heart when a priest from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City visited school during his freshman year.

"He was talking about ways that we could give our life back to God. Towards the end of that discussion, one of the ways he mentioned was by joining the religious life or the priesthood," Fr. Lepak said. "I just kind of felt like it lit a fire in my heart saying, 'wow, that would be amazing to dedicate myself totally to God.'"

After this first seed of joining the priesthood was planted, Fr. Lepak went back to normal high school life. But, junior and senior theology courses at Bishop McGuinness piqued his interest about the life of the saints.

"I was really intrigued by what they were trying to describe in contemplative prayer or their mystical experiences," Fr. Lepak said. "I was very interested in religion and deep experiences of life, but I wanted to experience it for myself and not just read about it."

His wish came true. Fr. Lepak would move to New York City, Oregon, and finally Japan to teach international students English courses and within this journey, he would learn more about himself and the faith.

Fr. Lepak spent two years in Hirosaki, Aomori, Japan, which is located at the northernmost part of the island about 8 hours away from Tokyo. In 2004, Mass in the small Japanese town was celebrated by a French Canadian priest which became a powerful experience for Fr. Lepak.

"Without this outpost of the faith, I would basically be in a totally foreign situation. I wouldn't have had any connection to my past," Fr. Lepak said. "I realized how much of a treasure it was."



After his time in Japan, Fr. Lepak returned home to Oklahoma City to search for a religious order to join as his vocation started to develop further. He even taught as a substitute theology teacher at Bishop McGuinness during this period.

In 2012, Fr. Lepak was accepted to join the Dominican Friars with the Western Dominican Province in Oakland, California. He would spend his next three years there as a novice under simple vows while taking graduate courses in philosophy and theology.

"After three years, I don't think this is a lifetime match," Fr. Lepak said. "I came home and was discerning and finally looked towards the diocesan priesthood, which I had never considered before."

Fr. Lepak entered into Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts. This seminary is designed for candidates thirty years or older. "It was a unique setting to go to that seminary, but I was really glad because the other seminarians were more mature and had a lot of life experiences."

In June, Fr. Lepak was ordained and assigned to St. Joseph's Catholic Church. It is here where he is impressed and relieved by the support of staff and volunteers of the community. "Now, I'm actually celebrating the Mass, hearing confessions, presiding over baptisms and funerals. I feel that my creative energy is finally being put to good use."

MIKE HOSTY

# Featured Songwriter on Toby Keith's New Album

By Liam Keating

A sound that's as infectious as any song heard on the radio, a musician that's good enough for anyone's taste in tunes even for legendary musician, Toby Keith, it is our own Mike Hosty 88'. He was shocked when his most popular song was covered by Keith in 2020.

Keith's cover of Hosty's song titled "Oklahoma Breakdown" was cut in Nashville and was released on his new album called **Peso in My Pocket** in October 2021.

Hosty has been playing music his entire life and was inspired by going to concerts when in high school at Bishop McGuinness. He always had one question when seeing bands such as the Red Hot Chili Peppers perform: "Can I do that?"

And sure enough, Hosty can do it. He started playing in a cover band which was popular amongst college students and in bars. He would play the same songs over and over again such as Brown Eyed Girl and Free Bird.

When Hosty started coming out with his own music, his style flowed from different genres. He points out that he is a "genre of one." Which comes from only taking one formal music class in his career. It was a jazz class which involved a teacher that did his chores around his students.

"I went to his class and we ended up going to get his laundry and we just ran errands with him. He then gave us a book with some scales in it," Hosty said. "Halfway through it, I said to myself, 'I'm not learning anything in this jazz class. This guy is just making it all up.' I realized, well, 'that's jazz.'"

Hosty's songs were made into very simplistic tunes as his band rotated constantly. Instead of teaching a new band member his complicated verses, a simple one chord song would make the transition easier.

"It really bothered me for a while because I've had these intricate things I wanted to do. But eventually it turned out



to be the best thing that could have happened. Now when I play by myself, it's easy to play these songs."

So, when Keith invited Hosty to his home studio outside of Norman, it was easy for Hosty to pick up the guitar and play along. Hosty played the guitar for Keith's recording of "Oklahoma Breakdown". According to Hosty, it was a very comfortable setting. When the session was over, Keith offered Hosty some advice, they exchanged thank yous and parted ways. Keith left Hosty with these words "I'm off to Cabo."

Hosty's love of music and playing in front of crowds comes from his time at Bishop McGuinness when he would attend many concerts. This created feelings of euphoria which makes performing music so addicting especially when it's your own.

"The most satisfying thing about making music is bringing joy and happiness to people. My goal is to share my gift with other people," Hosty said. "What a gift to play your own music."

Scan the QR code to listen to Toby Keith's "Oklahoma Breakdown."



SCAN ME

You can find Hosty's music on Spotify @Hosty and on his website at **hosty.com**





**CLASS OF 2011 GIRLS  
BASKETBALL STATE  
CHAMPIONS HIGHLIGHT**

# One Shining Moment

10 years ago, on Saturday, March 12, 2011, The Bishop McGuinness girls basketball team claimed their only state championship. The Irish finished their 2010-11 season with a record of 27-2. They capped off their season with a 44-36 victory in the title game against Tulsa East Central. The Irish defense held the Cardinals to under 25 percent shooting on 10-of-41 from the floor. Junior Elyse Hight finished with a game-high of 14 points and two blocks.



**STEPHANIE “MILLIGAN”  
WARMAN AND HUSBAND TRAVIS**

Stephanie is now working as a pediatric speech-language pathologist in Oklahoma City. She also officiates women's college basketball at the division I, II, III, NAIA, and JUCO levels.



**ALEXA LIENHARD**

Alexa Lienhard lives in Oklahoma City and has worked at Love's Travel Stops for over 6 years in their Marketing department. She is the current president of the BMCHS Alumni Executive Committee, a Recruitment Advisor for Kappa Alpha Theta in Norman, serves as the Secretary for Infant Crisis Services Young Professional Board, and attends Christ the King Church. She can't believe it has been 10 years since winning state and is not embarrassed to admit it is still a top 3 highlight of her life!



**HEAD COACH JENNIFER BURCH**

Jennifer received her masters in Education (school counseling). Since leaving BMCHS, she has coached at Sulphur, Enid, and Rush Springs. After coaching at Rush Springs for four years, Burch stepped down this year to focus on her role as a school counselor and to not miss any of her son Barrett's activities. Her nine-year-old son Barrett plays ALL the sports. Her daughter Kylee is a junior and plays basketball. Burch's husband, Robbie, is the superintendent at Rush Springs Schools.



**KATE ANDREWS**

Kate recently moved back to Oklahoma City after 4 years in Chicago. Kate is the Vice President of Marketing for VIAS Campus Management Software and serves on the YP board for Cleats for Kids. She is pictured with her boyfriend Charlie Evenson who was one of the Basketball managers for the State Championship team.



**KATIE HEINEN**

Katie is currently doing IT recruiting and real estate here in OKC as well as working at a few local elementary schools with her dog Georgia who is a licensed therapy dog!



**MADISON “REDDICK” SMYSER  
AND HUSBAND CRAIG**

Maddie graduated from Harvard Law School in 2019, spent the next two years clerking for federal judges, and will begin working as a federal prosecutor at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York in fall 2021. She is married to her law school classmate Craig Smyser, and they live in Brooklyn, New York.



**MARY KATE ROY AND  
FIANCÉ BRIAN**

Mary Kate Roy is a Speech Language Pathologist at an elementary school in Norman, Oklahoma, and is an assistant volleyball coach for the Irish. She is engaged to Brian Burling. The two plan to marry in the summer of 2022, before moving to Tulsa where Brian will finish his residency at OSU!



**CAROLINE “CAMERON” IKARD  
AND HUSBAND GABE**

Caroline is living in Oklahoma City with her husband Gabe. They welcomed their first son Cameron to the world in June 2021. Caroline works at American Fidelity and is involved in numerous local charities and foundations. Also pictured are their two dogs Lani & Makena.



**CLAIRE PEDULLA AND  
FIANCÉ JOHN**

Claire is engaged to John Woldum who does marketing for Jetta. She is currently doing traveling nursing as an ICU RN. They will be married in September of 2021!



**ELYSE HIGHT**

Since graduating from the University of Notre Dame with degrees in Accounting and Sociology, Elyse worked for Deloitte for 6 years doing Global Mergers and Acquisitions Consulting until recently making the career change to doing Full Time Personal Training as a Tier 3 Personal Trainer for Equinox Gyms based out of Chicago. In her personal life, Elyse competes in half marathons and triathlons, recently qualifying for Trail Half Marathon National Championships and competing in her first half Ironman in October.



# Updates

## 1956

William Brown was recognized as a member of the Bar for 56 years in July of 2021. On his 50th anniversary of being a member of the Bar, the State Bar of Texas publicly honored him at its annual Bar convention with a plaque “in recognition of valuable and meritorious service rendered by William L. Brown to the Community, State, and Nation as a member of the Bar for more than fifty years.”

## 1962

Rudyard Nieves passed away August 13, 2020. He was one of the co-creators of our beloved mascot Clancy that sat on the school floor.

## 1992

Kevin Sparling is currently the Director of Noble Cardiovascular Laboratories at INTEGRIS Heart Hospital and the President of the Medical and Dental Staff at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center.

## 1998

Carly Wegener married Tim Wilson on September 26, 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada surrounded by her sister and friends.

## 2001



▲ Bridgette Hundon was Awarded the “Employee Spotlight” from her company Merrill Lynch Wealth Management for her commitment and support to the community through volunteerism. Partnerships with the Oklahoma State University Foundation, the Urban League, ReMerge, and the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education have really helped her promote financial literacy and wellness throughout the great State of Oklahoma!

## 2007

Andrew Shaffer is currently an Instructor Pilot for the United States Air Force.

## 2010



▲ Elaine Cooper married Jacob Simon on October 17, 2020.



▲ Brett Mueggenborg and wife Jessye Patterson Mueggenborg welcomed their second son Hollis John on November 3, 2020.

## 2011

Elizabeth Harrigan-Holmes married Nicolas Jesuitas on October 11, 2020. They now live in Okinawa, Japan.

Ben Milam married Jordan Dick on October 24, 2020.

Sarah McAnulty Phillips and her husband Jordan welcomed their first son Casey Thomas on May 12, 2021.

Ashley Lutter and her husband Marcus welcomed their first son Cruz Lee on March 31, 2021.



▲ Alexis Goff married Daniel Carter on August 17, 2020 in Salt Lake City at the LDS Temple.

Caroline Cameron Ikard and husband Gabe Ikard welcomed their first son Cameron on June 20, 2021.



▲ Victoria Moyer Conley and husband Craig welcomed their first son Hawkins Dwight on July 16, 2021.



▲ Andrew Roberts married Macy Mertens on April 18, 2021. Andrew also joined Forum Energy Technologies in 2021 as a lead project Engineer.

Lillian Flannigan married Kyle Dillion on April 11, 2021.

Cenayda Guzman married Deonta Samilton on June 26, 2021.

Catherine Loeffler married Greyson Psencik on May 27, 2021.

Dillon Drosselmeyer became a Communications Lieutenant for the Denver Paramedics. They handle an average of 120,000 calls a year, have medical control for the city and county of Denver, provide medical assistance and education to several surrounding departments, and conduct various types of emergency medical research. They were also one of the leading research groups for the effects of COVID in emergency medicine environments.

Mary Tyler received the NASPA NOW Professionals Innovations award for 2020 which recognizes the exceptional contributions from new professionals and graduate students within NASPA. Each year, 25 participants will be selected as NOW Professionals, aligned with the NASPA Pillars: Integrity, Inclusion, Impact, Innovation, and Inquiry. She also was the college lab champion of 2020 which Recognizes exceptional individuals who champion the use of Campus Labs tools on their campuses.



## Updates

### 2012

Tyler Konarik and his wife Kaitlyn welcomed their first baby Charlotte on May 5, 2021.



- ▲ David Hill, Jr was promoted to Captain in the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in Savannah, Georgia serving as a Black Hawk pilot.

Katie Cooley Phillips and her husband Jacob welcomed their first child Adeline Louise on January 12th, 2021.



- ▲ Thomas Bailey and his wife Macee welcomed their first child Amelia Jean Bailey on March 1, 2021.



- ▲ Ashley Litton Garvey and her husband Andrew welcomed their first child Christopher Michael Garvey on December 3, 2020.

Paul Rosencrans and his wife Anne welcomed their first child Georgia Elizabeth on April 11, 2021.

### 2013

Suzanne Cisneros Byrd and her husband Jordan welcomed their daughter Isla Renee Byrd on October 31, 2020.

Stephani McKenna Wildman and husband Calvert welcomed their first son Calvert Jaden Wildman III on December 15, 2020.

Kevin Daly married Lauren Ermish on July 24, 2021. They own Up-Town Pup, a natural and holistic pet supply store in Uptown Dallas.

### 2014



- ▲ Lauren Hill is engaged to Austin Archer a fellow 2018 University of Notre Dame alum. They will be married summer of 2022 in Oklahoma City.



- ▲ Jacob Kinsinger married Betsy Stanfield on June 26, 2021 in Memphis, Tennessee. Jake started a new job as project manager at Regal Stephens homes in January 2021 and his wife is a first grade teacher.

Liza Cameron married Mitch Reilly on May 30, 2021.



- ▲ Forest "Trei" Staggs is a pilot for the United States Air Force.



- ▲ John Ditmars graduated from OCU Law School in 2021.

### 2016



- ▲ LT Hunter Hill graduated from Army Ranger School and Pathfinder School and currently serves with the 82nd Airborne.



- ▲ Joseph Kinsinger began attending medical school at the University of Oklahoma for the 2021 fall semester.

### 2017

Zach Segell graduated DePaul University and accepted a position as a Social Media Design Intern for the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers.

### 2018



- ▲ Tucker Hill completed U.S. Army Advance Camp and U.S. Army Air Assault School as a member of the Princeton University Army ROTC Class of 2022. Tucker will be commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Army in 2022.

### 2020



- ▲ Katherine Hill was named a Sorin Scholar at The University of Notre Dame.\*

\*The Sorin Scholars honors program admits 10-12 high potential first-year students across all colleges and schools through a competitive application process during the spring semester. Sorin Scholars selects a cohort of students who have excelled in terms of scholarly engagement (e.g., research, creative endeavors, leadership).



DEATHS

Please join us in prayer for members of the Irish community who have passed away.

Alumni

NAME	CLASS	D.O.D.
Linda Baustert	1959	8/7/2020
Rudyard Nieves	1962	8/13/2020
Arthur Hoenig	1963	8/30/2020
Patsy Brewster	1972	9/4/2020
Allen Harris JR	1959	9/4/2020
Teresa Poarch	1960	9/23/2020
Margaret Shawver (Tener)	1967	11/3/2020
Margaret Miller (O'Meara)	1961	11/7/2020
James McCaffrey	1957	11/10/2020
Mary Kathleen Marks (O-Meara)	1958	11/25/2020
Jerry Zielny	1951	11/29/2020
Mike McAuliffe	1975	11/29/2020
Liza Frampton (Burgess)	1976	1/4/2021
David Chernicky	1971	1/4/2021
Michael Anderson	1962	1/19/2021
Christine Overberg (Harkin)	1957	1/10/2021
Francis Michael Dill	1961	2/25/2021
Mark Ruffin	1980	2/27/2021
Paula Gaylene Murphy	1973	3/6/2021
Jack Gordy	1965	4/12/2021
Stephen Sprehe	1966	2/24/2021
John Thomas Eberle	1960	4/30/2021
Tiffany Porte'Woodruff	2002	5/30/2021
Michael Fong	1974	5/7/2021
Bernard Hanneman	1955	5/31/2021

Friends of McGuinness

NAME	D.O.D.
Thomas Kerrihard	7/28/2020
Bill Medley	8/11/2020
Steve Parsons	7/4/2020
Father Joe Ross	5/7/2021
Gary Joyce	11/13/2020

IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise to  
meet you. May the  
wind be always at your  
back. May the sun  
shine warm upon your  
face; and rains fall soft  
upon your fields.

And until we meet  
again, may God hold  
you in the hollow of  
His hand.



Mike McAuliffe

Mike was a proud Bishop McGuinness alumni from the class of 1975. He was a community leader throughout Oklahoma City who founded both the Oklahoma Jazz Festival and Oklahoma City's Christmas Parade. He passed away on November 29, 2020 just shy of his 65th birthday. Mike was known for loving his city with his entire being and did all that he could to make a difference.



Mark Ruffin

Mark was the epitome of giving his time, talent, and treasure in every way. He graduated from Bishop McGuinness in 1980 and was a wonderful supporter of the Irish community. Mark went on to become a highly successful residential and commercial developer whose projects improved the city he loved. Mark's greatest joy and accomplishment was his family. He married his wife Manda in 1994, and they had 4 children: Reina '18, Aubrey '21, David '25, and J.J. Mark never met a stranger, and can always be remembered by this statement he said to his children every day, "Reach your Full Potential."



# Section 7: Events



## BISHOP MCGUINNESS AUCTION

### Bohemian Bash

The 34th Annual Auction  
was worth the wait!

After being postponed in 2020, The Bohemian Bash was celebrated on Friday, April 30th outside on the Bishop McGuinness campus. We could not have asked for a more beautiful night. The weather was perfect! This laid the backdrop for over 350 alumni, parents, and friends to gather for a night of fun, fellowship, fundraising, and dancing under the stars! This event raised over \$160,000 for our general scholarship fund. A special thank you to honorary co-chairs, Tish and Mike Milligan '73, as well as auction co-chairs, Debbie Margo and Brittany Chumo. Due to the circumstances, they faithfully hung on and agreed to chair for two years! We are very grateful for all of your support!





BISHOP McGUINNESS AUCTION

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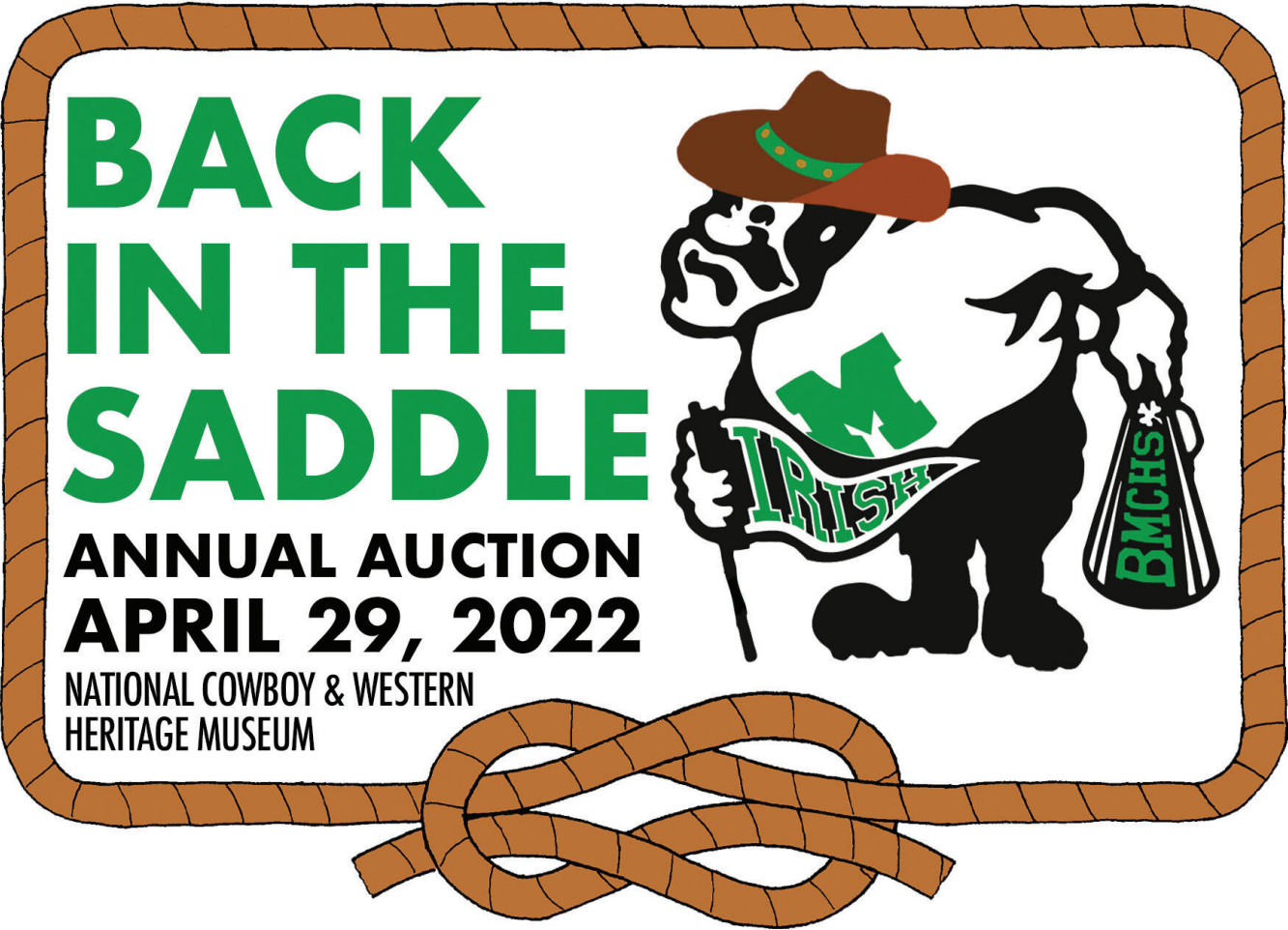
Lathonya and Rodney Shivers

Deena and Carl Sylvester

The Hefner Company

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# SAVE THE DATE



2022 Clancy's  
All Sports Golf  
Classic

SAVETHEDATE

October 14, 2022  
at the Earlywine Golf Club



## THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

# “Chicago: High School Edition”

By Senior Natalie Edmonds, 2021  
Chi Rhoan newspaper editor

Despite the pandemic and a snowstorm placing several inescapable barriers to live theatre including cast size, wearing masks while singing, and cancelling rehearsals, the theatre department remained optimistic about putting on the upcoming production of “CHICAGO: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION.”

“Chicago was picked for our annual musical because it’s one that I’ve always loved and I felt that we had the right cast for it,” theatre department head Brett Young said. “We have awesome actors and awesome dancers, since it’s a very dance heavy show.”

With the ever-changing status of the pandemic, the cast was forced to make changes in order to abide by COVID-19 guidelines and put on the safest production possible.

“Chicago was a COVID-friendly choice because it doesn’t have as many costumes and set changes,” Young said. “This way, we didn’t have to have a huge set, so it would be a little bit easier.”

Balance was key for most kids in the theatre program. Senior Sarah Tran balanced the musical, speech, and being DanceVisions captain, all of which were happening simultaneously and subject to change due to the unknown of the pandemic.

“Mr. Young and [dance instructor] Mrs. Mclemore work together to allow time for both,” Tran said. “Sometimes I get pulled out of musical or dance practice, but overall, we communicate, and we’re able to make both work. The cast is so welcoming and warm that I always feel safe; not to mention, dancing alongside my best friend is a huge plus.”



▲ 2021 senior Catie Leonard as Roxie Hart & sophomore Price Collier as Fred Casely

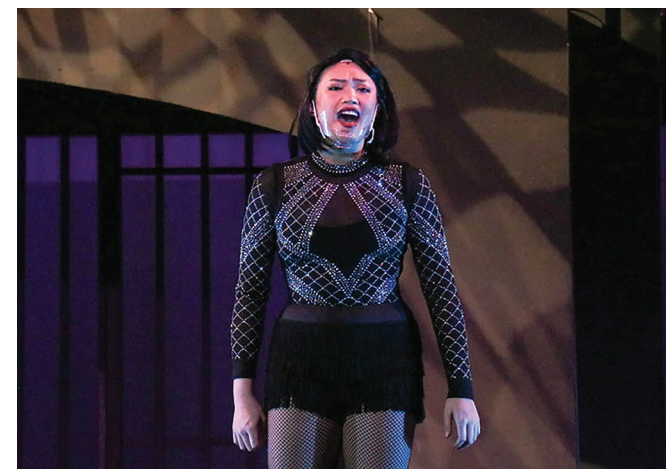
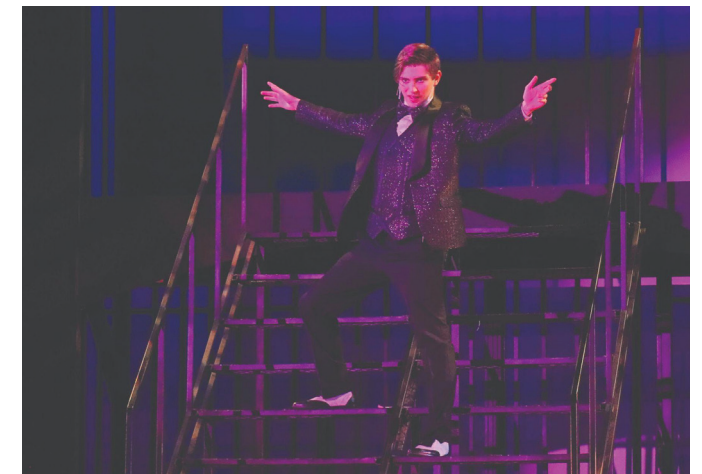
With the senior class exiting in only a few months, Young only had a few teaching moments left with the group.

“This particular group of seniors will be a hard goodbye because my first year was when they were freshmen, so they are the ones I’ve been able to truly watch grow over four years,” Young said. “They’re an awesome group of kids who are really talented and hard workers; therefore, the outcome is always great.”

▼ 2021 senior William Janson as Amos Hart



▼ 2021 Senior Daniel Webber as Billy Flynn



▲ 2021 senior Sarah Tran as Velma Kelly



▲ 2021 senior Mallory Winfrey as Matron “Mama” Morton

Individual photos taken by  
Peyton Matteson '23



# Section 8: Financials



Artwork created by  
Hannah Bernstein '22

# Annual Fund

The Forever McGuinness Annual Fund is our yearly fundraising initiative to support the school and its current needs. Your support enables us to provide assistance, expanded learning and growth opportunities for our students.

*\*Designated to a scholarship fund listed on page 78*



**\$10,000+**  
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SCAN Me



# Forever McGuinness

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Dan Cooper	1952	Richard Flanagan	1962			Nancy Carpenter	1975
Richard Gill	1952	James Maney	1962	1970s		Patricia Daniel	1975
Virginia Gravatt	1952	Frank Shidler Jr	1962			Clifford Gookin	1975
Leo Morrison	1952	Melanie Sutton	1962	Michael Burke	1970	David Marino	1975
Frank Phillips	1952	John Tucker	1962	David Giasson	1970	Jeffrey Martin	1975
Doris Kurtz	1953	Jim Butcher	1963	David Jewell	1970	Suzy Merritt	1975
Frank Manning	1953	James Nave	1963	Anne Murphy	1970	Paul Weigl	1975
Howard Nichols	1954	Margo Seck	1963	Patrick Nolen	1970	Monica Wenthold	1975
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Bart Cronin	1956	Barbara Thronhill	1964	Mary Brown	1971	John Duty	1976
Margaret Fent	1956	Mark Guerrero	1965	Randy Fudge	1971	Tim Maguire	1976
Mary Fulton	1956	Kathy Sine	1965	Yvonne Green	1971	Joseph Noble	1976
Lil Ross	1956	John Wilkinson	1965	Susan Kierl	1971	Nan Hight	1977
Jane Worsley	1956	Terence Brennan	1966	Thomas Luetkemeyer	1971	Melissa Hoehn	1977
Joan Maguire	1957	Paul Kanaly	1966	Nora Rapp Medley	1971	Sean Kelley	1977
Tom McCoy	1957	Kathy Payne	1966	Alice Murray	1971	Barbara King	1977
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Susie Nelson	1958	Judy Wilkinson	1966	Pat Graff	1972	B. Lynn Seely	1977
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Karon Carroll	1959	James Calvi	1967	Teresa Luetkemeyer	1972	Steve Cooper	1978
Virginia Manchester	1959	Ellen Duecker	1967	Diane Behring	1973	Chris Engel	1978
Dennis Sage	1959	Mary Swink	1967	Ruth Carey	1973	Michael Kierl	1978
		Elizabeth Edwards	1968	Andrew Dodge	1973	Jane Moon	1978
		Frances Hendrix	1968	Debbie Fleming	1973	Kurt Rupert	1978
1960s		Patricia Podolec	1968	Dave Heard	1973	Therese Allen	1979
		Reverend Stephen Bird	1968	Catherine Heck	1973	Albert Bisson	1979
Helen Bott	1960			Lon Kile	1973	Tony Culwell	1979
Paul Ruscha	1960	Warren Bickes	1969	Mike Milligan	1973	Fran McDermott	1979
David Best	1961	Tim Gheen	1969	Tish Milligan	1973	Matthew McLure	1979
Michelin Hobbs	1961	Mari Imel	1969	Dale Montgomery	1973	Hong Nguyen	1979
Susan Hudacky	1961	Pat Martinez	1969	Robert Richey	1973	Mark O'Brien	1979
John Mullins	1961	Barbara McEndree	1969	Jeff Speligene	1973	Mary O'Connor	1979

[illegible]



SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT

# The Clyde Grover Memorial Scholarship Fund

In May, the theology wing was dedicated to Deacon Clyde Grover. Grover, who retired from the U.S. Air Force after rising to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, served the school community for 23 years before losing his battle with Covid-19 on Oct. 14, 2020.

A theology teacher and department chair, Deacon Grover served in many capacities during his time at McGuinness, but faculty and staff remember him as a friend.

“Clyde Grover had this magic potion; I feel that he used to heal and help people,” math teacher Sally Schmidt said. “He listened, cared, and knew just what to say to make you feel better even if he was having problems of his own. He was one of my best friends and baptized all three of my kids at the same time with so much on his plate already. Anytime he spoke about his wife and children, he would tear up. He was so proud of all of them.”

When he started his teaching career, theology teacher Peter McConnell looked to Grover for guidance.

“He was very instrumental in the first couple years in not forcing me, but guiding me into teaching tactics that worked for him,” McConnell said.

Knowing the love Deacon Grover had for the school and the impact he had made in the community, Deacon Grover’s family felt establishing a scholarship in his honor was one way to continue making an impact.

“The idea to establish the scholarship on behalf of dad was a real family idea and effort,” Fr. Danny Grover said. “Shortly after dad had died, the family came



▲ Deacon Clyde Grover smiles for a photo with Jodie and Sally Schmidt after baptizing the Schmidt children: Collin, Ethan and Emma. Photo courtesy of Sally Schmidt.

together and we brainstormed on what dad’s lasting memory would be.”

Fr. Grover explained that his brother Chris, the eldest of the Grover children, had used the hashtag #LoveLikeClyde when he made a post to thank some of his friends who had prepared a care package for him before he left Tampa to return to Oklahoma City for his father’s funeral.

Shortly afterwards, the family had the hashtag screened onto masks and began selling them to raise money for the Clyde Grover Memorial Scholarship fund. The family’s hope is that the scholarship will benefit students who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend McGuinness. Fr. Grover said that he and his four siblings were only able to attend because it was a benefit of his father’s employment.

“If dad hadn’t been an employee, the Grover children wouldn’t have been able to afford or attend the school,” Fr. Grover said. “Once we reflected on our time and experiences at McGuinness, we thought that it would be really cool if in the midst of the sadness of our loss of our dad, that we could assist others who may not have the opportunity themselves to attend Bishop McGuinness due to financial constraints by setting up a scholarship in dad’s name. This is how the Clyde Grover Memorial Scholarship fund came to be.”

SCHOLARSHIP

# The Class of 1973 Endowed Scholarship Fund

In May of 1973, 127 seniors graduated from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

We had a great year; we had a dominant undefeated Lady Irish basketball team. The queen’s players produced “You Were Born on a Rotten Day,” the Faculty Fossils defeated the Senior Superstars, and a lion cub took over the stage for an assembly. Bishop McGuinness High School has always been a special place.

Our graduates go on to be great contributors to society and the Oklahoma City community. Never forgetting their alma mater, the Class of 1973 gives back. They truly embrace the mission of the school. Leading by example, they have created The Class of 1973 Endowed

Scholarship. A member of this class committed to donating \$125,000, which will be donated over a four-year period. This scholarship has already blessed the family of one of our current freshman students who is benefitting from this assistance. In future years, there will be a special connection to the class of 1973 as they play an important role in these students’ lives by blessing them with the opportunity to receive a Catholic school education that they might not otherwise be able to receive. The anonymous donor said, “The gift of an education based and centered on our Lord is our duty as mentors to a generation that lives in a fallen world. God is so great, so wonderful, so merciful, so loving.” We could not have said it better ourselves.

NEWSCHOLARSHIPS

# The Clyde Grover Memorial Scholarship Fund

# The Class of 1973 Endowed Scholarship Fund



# Scholarships & Endowments

All Class Alumni Scholarship

The Oded Amitz-lev Scholarship

The Alesia Boyer Memorial Scholarship

Archbishop Scholarship Fund

The Brand Scholarship Endowment

The Joe Cook Memorial Scholarship

The Cooper Family Scholarship

The Vincent Cotter Scholarship

General Scholarship Fund

The David Harlow Rice Scholarship

The Todd Harter Memorial Scholarship

The Al and Helen Hoch Family Scholarship

The Reginald and Lillian Hudson Memorial Scholarship

The Tony Maguire Scholarship

The Ed McCarthy Memorial Scholarship

The Judy McCarthy Love Scholarship

The Judy McCarthy Love and Tom Love Scholarship

The Jack A. Mideke Scholarship

The Nancy Morton Memorial Scholarship

The Grace and Bill O'Brien Memorial Scholarship

The Gary Pellegrini Scholarship

The Judith Pulley Memorial Scholarship

The Chris Paul Ruscha Memorial Scholarship

School Advisory Council Fund

The Smiley Family Scholarship

The Lorne Thomas Memorial Scholarship

## UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP

## Class of 1983 - The Onzie L. Level Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Onzie L. Level Jr., a 1983 graduate, was an individual of outstanding character. He prioritized family, holding a special bond with his mother throughout his life, and marrying his high school sweetheart, Lisa Townsend, who would later become the mother of his beautiful daughter, Lauren, a recent Langston University graduate. Onzie had a contagious laugh, and a giving heart. He was a remarkable athlete, playing both basketball and football, and was always a true team player, dedicated to bettering his teammates and serving as a role model and mentor to them. After graduation from BMCHS, Onzie played football for East Central University and graduated with a B.S. in Criminal Justice in 1988. Post college, he enlisted in the Navy and served our country in the Persian Gulf achieving the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. He received many military awards and was due for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant at the time of his death in 2003. In honor of our friend, teammate, and classmate Onzie L. Level Jr., we are establishing The Onzie L. Level Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.



# Leave Your Legacy.

## The Blessed Pier Giorgio Legacy Society

Our school patron Blessed Pier Giorgio's legacy inspires all who enter our doors to reach "Towards the Top." By leaving a planned gift to the school endowment fund or creating a named-scholarship fund, you and your family can ensure that Catholic education will continue for many years to come at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

## What types of planned gifts can you give?

We accept most present and deferred planned gifts, including will bequests, beneficiary of trusts, beneficiary of retirement accounts, and charitable remainder trusts. You may also make an immediate donation by cash, check, or stock transfers.

## Interested in making a gift?

We can help you find the perfect opportunity to make a planned gift based on your interests and preferences. Donated funds are critical to the school's success each and every year to provide for various projects not covered by our tuition-driven operating budget. Donations can be allocated for projects such as Work Grant scholarships, capital renovations, and academic program expenses. We would be honored to work with you to discover the perfect avenue for your donation.

## Will Bequests

A bequest is a simple, convenient way to plan a gift to Bishop McGuinness. A bequest can be made for a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Careful financial planning can be beneficial to you and allow you to leave an everlasting legacy to support Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School for future generations.



